

116th Session of the Senate of Pakistan



Budget Debate Consumes 40% of Session Time

- 12 female and 43 male lawmakers take part in general discussion
- 92 recommendations forwarded to National Assembly
- Prime Minister remains absent throughout the session

During the Senate's 116th session, 55 senators – 12 female and 43 male – took part in the debate on the federal budget for the financial year 2015-16. The Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization submitted 92 recommendations on the Finance Bill to the National Assembly, of which 56 were incorporated in the final budget.

The budget debate lasted 12 hours and 45 minutes and consumed 40% of the session's total time. Fifteen senators from the ruling party, PML-N, took part in the budget deliberations, followed by 14 lawmakers from PPPP, seven from MQM, four from JUI-F, three each from ANP and PTI, two from PkMAP and one each from BNP-A, BNP-M, JI, PML and PML-F. Two independent candidates also took part in the budget debate.

Four resolutions were moved in the House during the 116th session, all of which were adopted by the House. The House condemned the killing of innocent citizens in Mastung, genocide of the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and continued provocative statements by the

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 on their representatives' performance in the legislatures in order to hold them accountable.

The Parliament Watch and Reforms Project (PWRP), an initiative of the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), aims to collect and publish information about the performance of MNAs, MPAs and Senators by directly observing the parliamentary proceedings. FAFEN intends to foster informed engagement between constituents and elected representatives by providing objective and statistically-sound information on parliamentary processes and decisions.

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

Indian leadership that have disturbed the peace in the South-Asian region. The House also grieved the loss of lives in Khuzdar flood and urged the government to take immediate rehabilitation measures for the affected families.

The session lasted for 31 hours and 29 minutes, spanned over nine sittings. Apart from the first sitting, which witnessed a delay of 32 minutes in the beginning, all sittings started on time. On average, each sitting lasted around three-and-a-half hour. Breaks consumed four hours and 14 minutes (13%) of the session time.

Since the Senate does not make public the attendance records of its members, so FAFEN conducts a headcount of the members present at the beginning and end of each sitting. Members' attendance remained low overall, as 17 members were present on average at the start of each sitting whereas 30 lawmakers were present at the time of adjournment. On average, a maximum of 49 members were present at any given time during the sitting while three non-Muslim members were present in each sitting.

Senate Chairman attended seven of the total nine sittings, presiding over nearly 60% of the session's time. The Deputy Chairman was present in six sittings but presided over only 10% of the session's time while 16% of the time was presided over by the members of Panel of Chairpersons. The remaining time was consumed in breaks. The Prime Minister did not attend any sitting. Leader of the House, Raja Zafar ul Haq, attended all sittings of the session for the entire time, while the Leader of the Opposition, Aitzaz Ahsan, attended seven of the nine sittings for about 71% of the session time.

During the session, five reports were presented before the House. Of these, three reports were presented by the Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization, while one each was presented by the Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research and Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Human Rights.

A total of 24 points of order (POs) were raised during the session which consumed 47 minutes (2.5%) of the session time. However, none of the POs were able to receive a formal ruling from the Chair. Unless the Chair gives a formal ruling on a PO, it does not lead to any assembly output.

A PPPP lawmaker also raised a question of privilege against the Interior Ministry and the Election Commission of Pakistan for notifying the schedule for the local government elections in Islamabad despite the concerned legislation being pending with the Senate. The House referred the question to the Privileges Committee.

The session witnessed a total of three walkouts – two of which were held in the third sitting over insufficient funds for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Karachi. In addition, the opposition parties held another walkout in the fourth sitting for not broadcasting their budget speeches live on television.

Budget in the Senate

Article 73 of the Constitution of Pakistan and Rule 130 of the Senate's Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business state that a Money Bill shall originate in the National Assembly but should be laid before the Senate for debate. The Senate has to make recommendations on the Finance Bill within fourteen days. The National Assembly shall consider these recommendations and may pass the bill with or without incorporating these recommendations.

Once the motion is moved for the Senate to make recommendations on the Finance Bill, the House begins the debate. A lawmaker may, within three days of the motion, give notice of a proposal for making recommendations in writing to the Secretary. The member must also include the reasons necessitating the recommendations. An exception, however, is that the members of the Senate cannot give notice of a proposal for making recommendations to the Annual Budget

Statement, which relate to the expenditure charged upon the Federal Consolidated Fund, according to Clause 1 of the Article 82 of the Constitution.

The proposed recommendations are sent to the Standing Committee for Finance, which examines them and presents its recommendations to the House within 10 days.

Participation in General Debate

Once the Finance Minister laid the Finance Bill and moved for Senate's recommendations during the first sitting, the budget debate started in the Senate from the second sitting of the session. The budget debate lasted 12 hours and 45 minutes and consumed 40% of the session's total time. In all, 55 members – 12 female and 43 male – took part in the budget debate. The female lawmakers debated the budget for 115 minutes whereas their male counterparts debated for 650 minutes. Three female members each were from PML-N, PPPP and MQM while one each belonged to ANP, PkMAP and BNP-A. Similarly, 12 of the male members who debated the budget were from PML-N and 11 were from PPPP. In addition, four members each from MQM and JUI-F, three from PTI, two from ANP and one each from PkMAP, BNP-M, JI, PML and PML-F contributed in the debate. Two independent members also took part in the budget debate.

Recommendations

The Standing Committee on Finance finalized 92 recommendations in order to be forwarded to the National Assembly which may pass the money bill with or without incorporating the recommended amendments. Twenty-three of the 92 recommendations were related to development projects and funds while the remaining 69 were related to non-development issues such as taxes, pays and pension.

Sub-rule 3 of the Rule 141 of the National Assembly's Rules of Procedure dictates that these recommendations be considered clause by clause for their approval or disapproval. However, these recommendations were not discussed in the House and in the concluding speech of the National Assembly's budget session; the Finance Minister informed the House that 56 of the 92 recommendations made by the Senate had been incorporated in the Finance Bill 2015. This is not only in contradiction to the National Assembly's own Rules of Procedure but also to the Constitution, which states that any law or legislation can only be passed through the consent of the majority of the House.

Parliamentary Output

This section deals with legislations and resolutions debated during the legislative session of the Upper House of the Parliament.

Resolutions

Four resolutions were moved in the House during the 116th session, all of which were adopted by the House. Senator Hasil Khan Bizenjo of National Party moved a resolution to condemn the killing of innocent citizens in Mastung, Balochistan, calling for the arrest and execution of the culprits. BNP-M's Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini presented a resolution to grieve the loss of lives in Khuzdar flood and urged the government to take immediate steps for rehabilitation of the affected families. Similarly, Mushahid Hussain Syed of PML presented a resolution to condemn the genocide of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and Raja Zafar ul Haq of PML-N moved to condemn provocative statements by Indian leadership that have disturbed the security situation in the South Asian region and hampered the peace process between two neighbouring nations.

Sitting	Resolutions	Mover(s)	Party	Gender	Status
1	The Senate of Pakistan strongly condemns the killing of innocent people in Mastung on 29th May, 2015.	Hasil Khan Bizenjo	NP	Male	Adopted
2	This House expresses sorrow over the loss of lives of the 18 persons in Shah Noorani, Tehsil Wadh, District Khuzdar due to the flood. The House urges upon the Federal Government to take immediate steps for rehabilitation of the affected persons and their families and provide compensation to them.	Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini	BNP-M	Male	Adopted
3	The House strongly condemns the killing of innocent Rohingya Muslims in Burma (Myanmar). The House urges the government to take up the matter in United Nations.	Mushahid Hussain Syed	PML	Male	Adopted
5	This House condemns the recent disturbing pattern of provocative and hostile statement from Indian Leaders including threatening strikes against Pakistan territory, which leads to disturbing the peace in the region.	Raja Zafar UI Haq	PML-N	Male	Adopted

Reports

In all, five reports were presented before the House during the session. Of these, three reports were presented by the Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization, while one each was presented by Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research and Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Human Rights. Two of these reports were on the money bills and proposals for making recommendations on the Finance Bill 2015, two reports were regarding the bills earlier referred to the committees while one was the second quarterly report.

Sitting	Name of Report	Status	Mover(s)	Committee
1	The Second Quarterly Report for the year 2014-2015	Presented	Mohammad Ishaq Dar	Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization
6	The Seed Amendment Bill, 2015	Presented	Muzafar Hussain Shah	National Food Security and Research
7	The Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils (Amendment) Bill, 2015	Presented	Muhammad Javed Abbasi	Law, Justice and Human Rights
9	The report of the Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization on the proposals for making recommendations on the Finance Bill, 2015, containing the Annual Budget Statement	Presented	Saleem Mandviwala	Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization
9	The report of the Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization on the Money Bill, the Finance (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015, (Ordinance No. IX of 2015)	Presented	Saleem Mandviwala	Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization

Session Time and Attendance

The session, comprising nine sittings, started on June 5, 2015 and prorogued on June 17, 2015. Apart from the first sitting that saw a delay of just over half an hour from the scheduled starting time, no other sitting saw a significant delay as six sittings started right on time while two sittings

witnessed a delay of less than five minutes, taking the average delay to four minutes per sitting. Ever since the new Senate Chairman has taken over the charge, the sittings have generally been observed to start on time. Each sitting lasted for about three-and-a-half hours on average. The first sitting, wherein the Finance Bill 2015 was laid before the Senate, was the shortest of all, lasting an hour and 44 minutes whereas the fifth sitting was the longest, continuing for over six-and-a-half hours. The House also observed breaks in four sittings, one of which lasted two hours and 14 minutes, consuming nearly 38% of the total sitting's time. In all, the breaks constituted 13% of the session time.

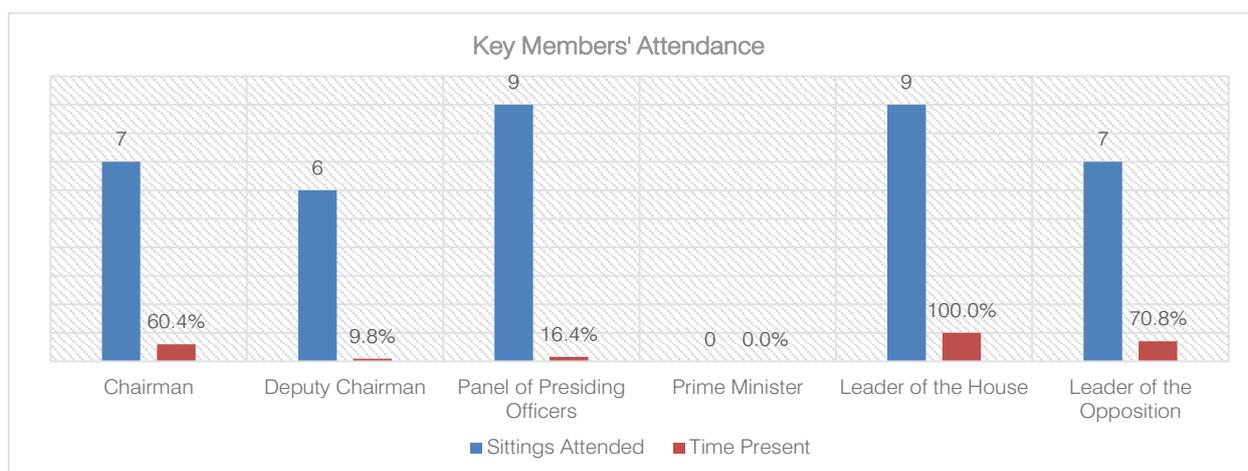
Sitting Date	Sitting No.	Delay	Total Sitting Time	Break
05 Jun, 2015	1	0:32	1:44	0:15
08 Jun, 2015	2	0:00	4:34	0:16
09 Jun, 2015	3	0:00	4:03	0:00
10 Jun, 2015	4	0:00	5:55	2:14
11 Jun, 2015	5	0:00	6:36	1:29
12 Jun, 2015	6	0:00	2:19	0:00
15 Jun, 2015	7	0:00	2:18	0:00
16 Jun, 2015	8	0:03	2:08	0:00
17 Jun, 2015	9	0:04	1:52	0:00
Total/Average		0:04	31:29:00/3:29:53	4:14/0:28

Senators' Attendance

The Senate does not make public the attendance record of its members, therefore, FAFEN conducts a headcount of the members present at the beginning and end of each sitting. Senators' attendance reflects interest in their role as public representative.

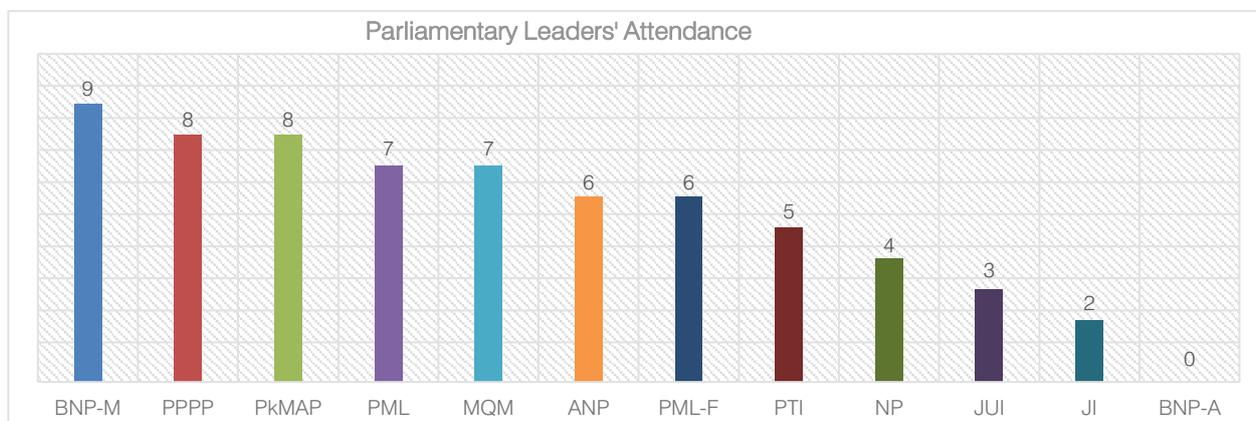
Key Members' Attendance

Senate Chairman attended seven of the total nine sittings, presiding over nearly 60% of the session's time. The Deputy Chairman was present in six sittings, chairing 9.8% of the session's time while 16% of the time was presided over by the members of Panel of Chairpersons. The remaining time was consumed in breaks. The Prime Minister did not attend any sitting. Leader of the House, Raja Zafar ul Haq, attended all the sittings for the entire time, while the Leader of the Opposition, Aitzaz Ahsan, attended seven of the nine sittings that consumed about 71% of the session time.



Parliamentary Leaders' Attendance

The BNP-M parliamentary leader attended all nine sittings followed by the parliamentary leaders of PPPP and PkMAP (8 each), PML and MQM (7 each), ANP and PML-F (6 each), PTI (5), NP (4), JUI-F (3) and JI (2). BNP-A's parliamentary leader did not attend any sitting of the budget session.



Lawmakers' Attendance

Although budget session has a very high significance in legislative business, lawmakers showed little interest in contributing towards the formulation of meaningful and effective recommendations to improve the quality of national budget for the upcoming financial year. The overall attendance of lawmakers remained low during the session. The quorum was visibly lacking on several occasions as 17 members were present on average at the start of each sitting whereas 30 lawmakers were present at the time of adjournment. On average, a maximum of 49 members were present at any given time during the sitting while three non-Muslim members were present in each sitting.

Sitting No.	Members At Outset	Members At End	Maximum Members	Minority Members
1	32	58	62	3
2	18	39	61	3
3	15	28	52	3
4	14	22	49	2
5	13	12	48	3
6	15	32	42	2
7	14	30	44	3
8	18	15	36	3
9	16	38	45	3
Average Attendance	17	30	49	3

Representation, Responsiveness and Government Oversight

Parliamentary oversight of the executive is one of the core functions of the Parliament. It is a tool to hold the executive accountable for its actions and ensure the implementation of the policies and decisions made on the floor of the House.

Calling Attention Notices

The lawmakers moved seven calling attention notices (CANs) during the session, of which five were taken up, one was converted into resolution while one was not taken up. All seven CANs were moved by male lawmakers – six individually and one jointly by four lawmakers. Two of these CANs were moved by the members of ruling party, PML-N, while PTI, ANP, PPPP, PML-F senators, in addition to an independent candidate, moved one calling attention notice each.

The CAN which was converted into a resolution was regarding the plight of Muslim minority in Rohingya, Myanmar, while the one not taken up was related to the import of inferior quality wheat from Ukraine.

Sitting	CANs	Ministry	Party	Gender	Status
6	The rapid increase in Kachi Abadis all over the country especially in Islamabad Capital Territory	Cabinet Division	PML-N	Male	Taken Up
9	Granting of Indian Nationality to some of 2,00,000 refugees from neighbouring countries including Pakistan and Afghanistan by the Government of India	Foreign Affairs	PML-N	Male	Taken Up
9	The disclosures made by the D.G. Rangers Sindh on 12th June, 2015, in the meeting of the Apex Committee about the extent of worsening Law and Order situation in the Metro-polis	Interior and Narcotics Control	PPPP	Male	Taken Up
8	Alleged irregularities and rigging in the recent local bodies elections in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Parliamentary Affairs	ANP	Jointly	Taken Up
2	Unequal representation of provinces in the Board of National Transmission and Dispatch Company Limited (NTDC) and non-representation of experts in that Board due to which a number of problems have arisen	Water and Power	PTI	Male	Taken Up
2	The plight of the Muslim minority of Rohingya, Myanmar	Foreign Affairs	IND	Male	Converted into Resolution
7	Import of inferior quality wheat from Ukraine	National Food Security and Research	PML-F	Male	Not Taken Up

Order and Institutionalization

This section deals with the parliamentary instruments employed to maintain order and institutionalization in the House, such as issues raised through POs and the time consumed thereof. It also reviews the questions of privileges and instances of protests/walkouts/boycotts during the session.

Points of Order (POs)

Under the House rules, a PO is raised to address an apparent breach in the rules of the parliamentary procedure while the assembly's business is underway, and usually requires Chair's ruling on the issue. POs must never be concerned to non-procedural issues; however, this agenda item is frequently misused by the legislators to raise matters of national interest or other issues.

A total of 24 POs were raised during the session which consumed 47 minutes (2.5%) of the session time. However, none of the POs were able to receive a formal ruling from the Chair. Unless the Chair gives a formal ruling on a PO, it does not lead to any assembly output.

Sitting	No. of POs	Time (Minutes)
1	0	0
2	2	2
3	1	1
4	1	2
5	2	3
6	5	15
7	13	24
8	0	0
9	0	0
Total	24	47

Question of Privilege

A question of privilege was raised against the Ministry of Interior, Government of Pakistan and the Election Commission of Pakistan for notifying schedule for local government elections in Islamabad, although the concerned legislation is pending with the Senate for passage. The question of House's privilege was raised by PPPP Senator Saeed Ghani.

Walkouts/Protests/Boycotts

Two walkouts were observed during the third sitting while another walkout was observed in the fourth sitting of the session. The entire opposition led by ANP, walked out of the House to protest insufficient budget allocation for the development of Pak-China Economic Corridor route in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, however, the lawmakers returned to the House after three minutes. During the same sitting, MQM walked out for five minutes to protest against ignoring Karachi in the Federal Budget. Lawmakers belonging to PPPP, ANP, PTI, PML and BNP-A walked out to protest against government's decision of not broadcasting opposition lawmakers' speeches on the television. The walkout continued for about 38 minutes.

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This report is based on direct observation of the Senate proceedings conducted by PATTAN Development Organization, a member organization of FAFEN

ANNEX

RECOMMENDATIONS OF SENATE OF PAKISTAN IN THE FINANCE BILL, 2015-16

Session 116
Sitting 09

SENATE SECRETARIAT
RECOMMENDATIONS OF SENATE OF PAKISTAN IN THE FINANCE BILL, 2015
BUDGET PROPOSALS 2015-16

RECOMMENDATIONS

PART - I

1. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that appropriate allocation be made to improve road links between Taxila and Haripur, Taxila - Haripur via Khanpur bridges and construction of road subsurface water drainage lines.
2. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that to reduce distance and improve reach to the remote area of Clinger, a bridge be built from moza Chakani to Murradpur located at Chapar Road Clinger, District Haripur.
3. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that to meet the increasing demands of power consumption, funds be allocated to establish a 50MW Grid Station in District Kohistan.
4. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that Pattan to Rai Kot road be completed within this year.
5. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that Havelian to Abbotabad road in District Mansehra be widened by adding one lane as soon as possible.
6. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the Government should take immediate measures to stop the disaster of mountain breaking at the Karakurm road, Mianchur to avoid another situation like the Attabad disaster.
7. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the issue of demarcation of Diamir Bhasha Dam be resolved and funds be allocated for payment to the land owners by the government.

8. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that funds be allocated for the early construction of Babusar Tunnel from Chillas to Naran.
9. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that infrastructure and development work of the Industrial Estate Gawadar be completed and work on the Gawadar Airport be initiated at the earliest.
10. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly to allocate the remaining funds for the completion of Makhi Farsh Link Canal project in lower Sindh of Districts Sanghar & Umerkot as it has been an ongoing project for the last 22 years.
11. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly to allocate Rs. 2.5 billion for Karachi KIV water supply project as had been promised by the Government.
12. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the budgetary proposals, especially the PSDP/annual plan may be presented to the concerned Committee of both Houses at least four weeks before laying the budget in the House. Also, all Legislators should be given sufficient time and provided details to make recommendations.
13. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the PSDP should be reviewed and re-appropriated according to Article 156(2) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in order to make appropriate allocation for completing the already started projects in all provinces and Federal Administered Areas.
14. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the decision taken on 28th May, 2015 in the APC with regard to the Western Route of CPEC be implemented in letter and spirit and reflected in the Budget, 2015-16. It was approved by the Prime Minister in the APC that the western route will be developed first and all financial resources will be allocated to this route, which does not reflect in the PSDP.
15. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that at least 500 million rupees should be allocated for the construction of Gilgit-Skardu road as promised by the Prime Minister recently in Gilgit.

16. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the level of the underground water has reached a deplorable level in the districts of Quetta, Pishin, Zhob, Sherani, Qilla Saifullah, Ziarat, Harnai, Barkhan, Musa Khel and Dukki. Therefore, urgent action should be taken by the Federal Government for construction of these small dams and an amount be allocated in this regard.
17. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that Hangool Dam, Nadhi Dam, Mola Dam, Karakh Dam, Soddam District Gawadar, Khaisar Dam Noshki, should be considered on priority to save billions of cusecs water. Out of these dams, atleast one dam may be constructed at the earliest for storage of water.
18. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that as drought in Tehsil Wadh and District Khuzdar Ras has devastated the whole area and in specific Shahnoorani & Sarona area. Therefore, immediate action may be taken in this regard and the following dams be constructed for a permanent solution to this menace:-
- a) Tuk Storage dam Tehsil Wadh.
 - b) Garrah Storage Dam Shahnoorani Tehsil Wadh.
 - c) Kangori Storage Dam Shahnoorani Tehsil Wadh.
 - d) Bohair mass storage Dam Tehsil Wadh.
19. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the remaining amount of Rs.250 million be allocated in the next Finance Bill for the construction of Capital B/Capital T Road from Sui to Uch under Dera Bugti Package which was approved in 2009 with a cost of Rs.797.7 million.
20. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the balance amount of Rs.403 million may be allocated for completion of the Fly Over at Koyla Phatak Smungly Road, Quetta.
21. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that special funds be allocated in the Federal PSDP for eradication of Hepatitis C throughout the country and funding should be atleast doubled.

22. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that an allocation of Rs.5 billion be made under PSDP for up gradation of Bacha Khan International Airport and 25% to 35% of the amount should be released immediately so that the project is completed on an urgent basis.

23. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that finances may be expedited for the completion of Chashma Right Bank Canal Project which is pending since 2004.

A

PART - II

24. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that in the Income Tax Ordinance 2001, the benefit of Section 65E may be extended till June 30, 2018, as the large scale industry execution timeline is over 2 years to reach commercial production levels.

25. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the advance tax on banking transactions with a minimum threshold of Rs.50,000 (cross cheques, DD, PO, CDR etc) should be applicable to non-filers.

26. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the FBR must withdraw the applicability of 5% sales tax on reclaimed lead if sold to recognized battery manufacturers.

27. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that rates of custom duty on parts and finished items should not be the same, as recommended by the National Tariff Commission.

28. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that a 2.5% tax be imposed upon the investors to regularize their un-declared money and evolve a system for providing incentives to the investors, so that the economy is strengthened.

29. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that a receiving copy from Afghan border customs may be made compulsory to ensure proper export of goods at Pak-Afghan border. This measure will also increase the tax revenue of the government.
30. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly for the withdrawal of GST on fertilizers namely Urea, DAP, NPK, Potash (SOP) and Zink which has eroded farm profitability and as such adversely affected the farming community in Pakistan.
31. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly for the withdrawal of GST imposed on pesticides and herbicides/weedicides which has resultantly increased the cost of production of various crops and affected the farming community in Pakistan. This has resulted in increasing food insecurity and poverty in the country.
32. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly to waive off sales tax on locally manufactured agricultural machinery so that farm machinery which is locally produced can be made available at affordable prices to the farming community.
33. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that only 2% duty on import of Euro-II / Euro-III may be imposed and sales tax be exempted, irrespective of the horsepower in order to ensure supply of quality tractors to the farming community.
34. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that only 2% duty on all poultry plant equipment and machinery may be imposed and exemption on sales tax be provided.
35. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly for allocation of funding for the strengthening/up-gradation of Arid Zone Research Institute located at Umarmot, Sindh.
36. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly for grant of subsidy on electricity tariff used for lift machines and other pumps for lifting water for agricultural purposes.

37. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the Ministry of Finance may present broad parameters of the Budget in March every year and detailed budget by mid May every year in both Houses of the Parliament for pre-budget discussion.
38. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that a special allocation may be made in the Budget for the martyrs of the Army Public School Peshawar (both staff and students) and this money should be disbursed at the earliest to the families (kith and kin) those who laid down their lives during the brutal terror attack of December 16, 2014. There should also be compensation for those who were wounded in the attack.
39. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that an increase of 12.5% be made in pay and pensions after the Adhoc Allowances have been merged in the basic pay of all government employees. Since the increase of 7.5 % is not enough to provide relief to the salaried and retired individuals.
40. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that midyear budget review may be made mandatory and should be done each year in the month of February in the Parliament for purposeful discussion and input.
41. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that all international loans and economic agreements may be placed before the Parliament for information.
42. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that in order to promote industrialization, the Federal Government may announce subsidized long term fixed mark-up loans to set-up new industrial units in the country to promote industrialization. IDBP should not be wound up and be revived instead to help promote industrialization.
43. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the Government may allocate appropriate funds from BISF for elderly citizens also. The Government should also arrange an external independent audit and recipients' verification of

BISF immediately in order to ensure transparency and to eliminate undeserved/non-qualified recipients.

44. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that subject to the consent of provinces in CCI, the Federal Government should devolve all DISCOs to the provinces in order to rationalize energy cost.
45. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that a single "Energy Ministry" be created by merging different Federal Ministries dealing with the subject, in order to fast track actions on ongoing issues relating to energy.
46. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the Federal Government may forthwith stop the load shedding of gas and electricity for industrial estates.
47. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the import of five year reconconditioned/old cars may be allowed.
48. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that a country wide programme be launched to train farmers to shift from traditional tilling and harvesting ways to mechanized farming, and for this purpose an initial amount of 500 million rupees be allocated.
49. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the Federal Government should make an announcement in this Annual Budget 2015-2016 for granting priority in the Prime Minister's Youth Programme to the FATA Youth for establishing fruit orchards and animal farms.
50. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that rates in PIA long routes, short routes and socio economic routes may be decreased and fare in economy, economy plus, club, business and first class may also be decreased.
51. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that only 2% duty be imposed and sales tax exemption should be incorporated in the tax laws for setting up

manufacturing facilities for modern watering technologies like sprinkler and drip irrigation.

52. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that only 2% duty be imposed and sales tax exemptions should be incorporated in the tax laws for importing modern irrigation watering technologies like sprinkler and drip irrigation.

53. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the allocation for the FATA University in the budget be increased so as to start meaningful work on the project and also to bring the tribal areas into the national mainstream.

54. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that Pak currency be allowed instead of dollars w.e.f. 1-7-2015 against exports from the whole country of Pakistan to Afghanistan of perishable goods namely fruits, vegetables, dairy products and meat, as proposed for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

55. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that District Awaran and Washuk should be connected with the National Grid, so that people may benefit from electricity domestically and commercially.

56. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that electricity lines be laid on priority basis in District Noshki since towers have been erected in the area, but not energized.

57. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that a special subsidy be announced for the farmers of the province of Balochistan for procurement of fertilizers, pesticides, etc.

58. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that concessions to establish meat units all over the country be extended till the year 2017.
59. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that tax holiday for Balochistan be provided, as proposed in the KPK for the industry.
60. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that banking companies be mandated to achieve a minimum level of 15% share of their portfolios to SME's. SME bank may also be reactivated and its capital be increased to service the SME sector.
61. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that lowest Slab for A1 General Tariff for residential consumers be increased from 50 units to 150 units.
62. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that FED on Cigarettes be increased from 58% to 70%, as cigarettes are extremely harmful to the health of citizens.
63. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the Tax Reform Bill be reintroduced to benefit the country.
64. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that mobile phone sets of value upto Rs.5000 be exempted from GST as mobile phones are a necessity particularly for the poor and people living in far flung areas of the country.
65. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the power given to FBR to access the bank account information be withdrawn.
66. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that all FBR communications be in Urdu language in addition to the English language.
67. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that all subsidies be assessed to determine whether they reach the common man. Also, a Commission be constituted for this purpose, which will submit its report to the Government within 90 days.

68. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the monthly installment under the Benazir Income Support Program be increased to Rs. 1700 and the number of families may also be increased in the programme.

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69. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that FATA and Gilgit Baltistan be given Financial Autonomy and special development packages.

70. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the employees of the Senate Secretariat may also be granted Honourarium as a reward for their hard work during the Budget Session like the National Assembly Secretariat employees.

71. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that members of the Senate should also be granted exactly the same amount of development funds as the members of National Assembly.

72. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that in Section 5 (59) (x) of the Finance Bill, 2015 inserting clause (142) of Part I of the Second Schedule be approved with the following wording:

“(142) Income derived by Balochistan Employees’ Social Security Institution, Employees’ Social Security Institution Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab Employees’ Social Security Institution and Sindh Employees’ Social Security Institution.”

73. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that in the Finance Bill 2015, Section 58 (C) (a) (ii) (b) the following amendment be made:-

“Provided that the rate of tax required to be deducted by a collective investment scheme, REIT Scheme or a mutual fund shall be-

	Stock Fund or a REIT Scheme	Money Market Fund, Income Fund or any other fund
Individual	10%	10%
Company	10%	25%
AOP	10%	10%

74. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that Income Tax Ordinance, Section 5A, in its present form should be withdrawn and transfers to reserves be taxed if the company has not distributed 40% of the income in that year as dividends.
75. Section 153 (3) of Income Tax Ordinance was amended in 2009 to levy 6 % final/minimum tax on service providing companies including mobile companies without adjustable proviso. Now to give benefit to these companies, they have been exempted and that too from 2009. Retrospect benefit to individuals against the state is unprecedented. Annual Loss will be plus 30 billion, accumulated loss from 2009 will be about 125 billion. Therefore, the Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the said provision may be revoked.
76. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that in case of FMCG and other products, customs duty on certain finished goods is proposed to be greater than the customs duties on raw material. Therefore, this anomaly be removed for domestic manufacturing to survive.
77. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that Income Tax Ordinance, Section 65 (B) which is expiring on June 30, 2015 be extended till June 30, 2018.
78. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that subsidies and other incentives be given on solar tube wells to encourage their use and resultant energy conservation.
79. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that PIU for the agricultural sector may be increased from 2000 to 4000.
80. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that industries for mobile phones and other such products that are not being manufactured in Pakistan must be given priority and granted pioneer status.

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81. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that to increase the RD on Bars from 15% to 35% and Steel Billets from 15% to 25%. Also, 5% RD on Steel Scrap be removed.
82. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that DRI (Direct Reduced Iron) imports should be taxed at the same rates of custom duty and sales tax as Steel Melting Scrap.
83. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that Steel Industry be exempted from all taxes including Sales Tax on the import of plant and equipment.
84. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that in the Finance Bill, 2015 clause (16A) of Part IV of the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 should be reinstated.
85. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that all insurance schemes in the agricultural sector be introduced on Takaful basis.
86. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that Medical Allowance for all government employees along with pensioners be increased by 100% and the minimum level of pension for the pensioners be increased from Rs. 6000 to Rs.8000.
87. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the house hiring allowance of government employees be adjusted according to the prevailing market rates and monthly payments be made.
88. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that all the disabled persons working on contract basis in the whole country be regularized and their minimum wages be increased by 20%.
89. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that Tariff Determination Policy of NEPRA be changed, so that a minimum upfront tariff of Rs. 10 per KWH be declared irrespective of the ROI. This would increase focus on cost effective technologies for power production. Furthermore Custom Duty and Sales

Tax at import or local purchase of machinery or low cost energy producing technologies be introduced.

90. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the period of tax exemption announced for KPK be increased from 1.7.2015 to 30.6.2020.
91. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that amendments made to the Financial Institutions Recovery of Finance Ordinance, 2001 finalized by the State Bank of Pakistan be approved by the National Assembly to enable the banking industry to provide mortgage loans.
92. The Senate recommends to the National Assembly that the difference in sales tax slab on textile sector for the regulated sales tax registered persons and sales tax non-registered persons be brought at 1%.

About FAFEN

Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) is a nationwide network of 42 Pakistani civil society organizations. It has been working since 2006 to strengthen democratic systems and promote active citizenship and is now governed by Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA). With its primary mandate to observe elections and seek reforms to improve the quality of elections, FAFEN managed unprecedented long-term voter education and election observation initiatives that got 20,000 Pakistani citizens from every district of the country directly involved in the general election process in 2007-08.

In 2013, FAFEN deployed more than 40,000 trained, non-partisan long- and short-term observers to monitor all phases of general election. FAFEN election observation has yielded valuable insights into the quality of the electoral process and enabled generation of critical recommendations for reforms in the constitutional, legal and procedural frameworks that govern elections in Pakistan.

In addition to its vibrant Electoral Oversight, Research and Reforms Program, FAFEN has developed innovative techniques to observe the functioning of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies in order to advocate for parliamentary reforms for a more accountable, transparent and responsive legislative governance. Under its Parliament Oversight, Research and Reforms Program, FAFEN directly observes and objectively reports on the proceedings of all elected Houses in Pakistan.

FAFEN mobilizes and facilitates citizens engagements with elected and public institutions across Pakistan as a prerequisite for strengthening democratic accountabilities as part of its Electoral Governance Oversight, Research and Reforms Program. These activities fit in with the core FAFEN's objective of promotion of active citizenry—a critical ingredient of a vibrant democratic system.



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