

A report on



14th

National Assembly's Contributions to Foreign Affairs, Anti-Terrorism and CPEC

June 2018



Executive Summary

The 14th National Assembly dedicated almost eight percent of its agenda to matters concerning foreign affairs, anti-terrorism and the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The House preferred the government-sponsored and supplementary business items over private lawmaker's interventions on these issues.

Pakistan witnessed crucial foreign relations challenges during the five-year tenure of the 14th Assembly beginning in 2013. These included increasing tensions with neighbouring India and Afghanistan, various conflicts in the Muslim world, and strained relations with the United States of America (USA) amidst warming ties with Russia and the development of CPEC. Despite the urgency warranted by many of these issues, the government avoided proactive deliberation on foreign affairs in the National Assembly. In fact, some efforts by private lawmakers, particularly by opposition members, to take up these issues in the House were stalled.

On the anti-terrorism front, the government formulated the National Security Policy 2014-18, the National Action Plan 2015 (NAP) and the National Security Policy 2019-2023. The development of these policies did not involve debate or deliberation in any parliamentary forum. Debate occurred only on the National Security Policy 2014-18 after it had been formulated, depriving lawmakers of the opportunity to provide their input to the policy's development and finalization.

Parliamentary business on foreign affairs accounted for nearly five percent of the regular agenda tabled in the House during the Assembly's term, of which almost 85% was addressed during House proceedings while the remaining lapsed. Agenda related to foreign affairs included 24 (5%) Calling Attention Notices (CANs), 55 (12%) resolutions, 27 (10%) Motions under Rule 259, 671 (5%) questions and a private member's bill which did not proceed beyond committee deliberation.

Lawmakers raised matters concerning Pakistan's relations with Muslim countries, particularly in the context of Middle Eastern crises, with India in the context of the Kashmir issue, and with the USA in the backdrop of the War on Terror and the Pakistan Foreign Office's performance in facilitating overseas Pakistani citizens, especially workers and prisoners in foreign jails. More than two thirds (67%) of the resolutions on foreign affairs were moved as supplementary agenda, i.e. they were not included on House's Orders of the Day. Through these resolutions, the House expressed its opinions and recommendations to the government regarding various matter in the ambit of foreign affairs.

In one resolution, the House recommended that the government should consider suspending diplomatic ties with the USA following President Trump's statement deriding Pakistan's role in and contributions to international anti-terrorism efforts in Afghanistan. However, the fate of this resolution, among others, remains unknown as the House was not informed about any action taken on the basis of the House's recommendations. Lawmakers underlined similar issues through CANs; of 24 notices, 83% were successful in drawing responses from the government whereas the remaining 17% were not addressed.

Moreover, only 30% (or eight of 27) of the Motions under Rule 259 moved on foreign affairs issues were discussed in the House. The majority of the Motions that were discussed (six) were initiated by the government whereas similar Motions by private lawmakers were largely ignored during the Assembly's five years. Through a private member's bill, the opposition party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) proposed that the government should be bound to seek parliamentary approval prior to entering into any international agreement. However, the bill did not return to the House after its first reading and subsequent referral to the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs. Lawmakers also sought clarifications on several foreign affairs matters from various Ministries during the Question Hour; 90% of 671 questions received responses.

The Assembly's business on issues regarding terrorism and anti-terrorism constituted only about one percent of the House's total agenda. The House addressed 61% of these agenda items whereas the remaining 39% remained unaddressed. The agenda included 16 (3%) CANs, 38 (8%) resolutions, 16 (6%) Motions under Rule 259, 131 (1%) questions and 16 (8%) government bills. Through these agenda items, lawmakers expressed reactions to various incidents of terrorism in the country and formulated a collective response on anti-terrorism measures to be suggested to the government. Militancy in the tribal areas bordering Afghanistan and rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were recurring themes in these agenda items.

In a bid to strengthen the anti-terrorism regime in the country, the 14th Assembly passed laws that included extending the jurisdiction of military courts to civilians. These included amendments in the constitution and other relevant laws. Additionally, the Assembly introduced changes in the laws governing registration of foreigners in the country and the functioning of the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA). However, a resolution tabled by a PPPP lawmaker on measures to improve NACTA's effectiveness was rejected by the majority due to the treasury's opposition.

The House adopted two of nine private members' resolutions related to anti-terrorism. These resolutions included recommendations to the government to ensure the federal capital's security and beef up its counter-terrorism measures. Other resolutions on the subject of terrorism were tabled to condemn incidents of terrorism and to praise the Pakistan military's counter-terrorism efforts. Through CANs, lawmakers highlighted extrajudicial killings and foreign-sponsored terrorism in Karachi, delays in post-military operation rehabilitation of tribal areas, arms regulation, security arrangements at Pak-Afghan border and various incidents of terrorism in the country.

The House held discussions on government-sponsored Motions under Rule 259 following every major terrorist attack in the country. All such discussions were centred on the opposition urging the government to activate NACTA and the government reiterating its commitment to eradicate terrorism from the country. The National Security Policy 2014-2018 was also discussed in the House, however, private lawmakers' Motions to discuss the law and order situation, the NAP, attacks on polio-vaccination workers, and cross-border terrorism were ignored by the House. Moreover, lawmakers sought information from the government on terrorism-related matters through 131 questions, of which 61% received responses during the Assembly's term.

Business concerned specifically with CPEC included one CAN and 116 questions only, which account for roughly one percent of the total questions asked during the Assembly's five-year term. Lawmakers sought information on various CPEC projects, CPEC routes, and security provisions for projects and personnel.

Introduction and Methodology

Parliamentary democracies are expected to act in accordance with the will of the people manifested by their chosen representatives in parliaments. Apart from representing public aspirations, parliaments are expected to strike a balance among conflicting interests and consolidate them in the shape of government policies and laws. This contribution to public policy making is considered one of the major functions of a parliament.

Pakistan has a bicameral parliament consisting of an indirectly elected Upper House i.e. Senate, and a directly elected Lower House, i.e. National Assembly. The Senate is a perpetual body with half of its membership retiring every three years while the National Assembly is elected for a term of five years. Since the adoption of the 1973 Constitution, the 14th National Assembly is the third Assembly to have completed its constitutionally mandated term (on May 31, 2018). All Assemblies prior to 2002 were dissolved prematurely.

The present report reflects on the contributions of the 14th Assembly to three important areas of governance and policy that include foreign affairs, anti-terrorism and CPEC. Pakistan experienced a host of complex foreign affairs challenges during the 14th Assembly's terms, including fluctuations in Pak-US relations, increasing tensions on the eastern and western borders, and issues cropping up in the wake of warming Pak-Russia relations. During the same period, the country continued to battle terrorism in the form of military operations such as Zarb-e-Azab and Radd-ul-Fasaad. The country also signed a USD 46 billion CPEC agreement with the People's Republic of China involving the development of multi-pronged projects in transport infrastructure, energy, agriculture and industrial sectors that have been publicised as critically significant for Pakistan's economic growth and development. Overall, these political and economic developments have the potential to considerably determine Pakistan's future course for decades.

To evaluate the 14th Assembly's contributions to national policy in these three areas, the report uses findings from direct observation of House proceedings by Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), and the National Assembly's own records of its business and proceedings provided on its website. The report is divided into two sections; the Assembly's Output and the Oversight of the Executive's Performance based on various agenda items. The Output section includes the 14th Assembly's legislative business during its five-year term, which is a binding policy framework, as well as non-binding recommendations to the government in the form of resolutions. The section on Oversight of the Executive's Performance includes CANs, Motions under Rule 159 and Questions that are used to seek the government's intervention and information on matters of public importance.

THE 14th ASSEMBLY'S CONTRIBUTION TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS

ASSEMBLY OUTPUTS

LEGISLATION

The 14th Assembly did not approve any legislation related to foreign affairs. A PTI lawmaker initiated a private member's bill titled 'Ratification of International Treaties Bill, 2013' in the House during the first parliamentary year. The bill sought parliamentary ratification of all international treaties which the federal government intended to enter into. However, the bill did not pass beyond the committee referral stage.

RESOLUTIONS

Lawmakers moved a total of 55 resolutions on various matters concerning the country's foreign affairs. The subjects of these resolutions were largely concerned with Pakistan's relations with other Muslim countries, India and the USA, Pakistan's involvement in the War on Terror, and the performance of the Pakistan Foreign Office. The House adopted 42 of these resolutions whereas 13 remained unaddressed. Nearly 33% or 18 of 55 resolutions on foreign affairs were moved as part of the regular House agenda, only five of which were adopted. The remaining 37 resolutions were moved as supplementary business items, i.e. not on the Orders of the Day. The government moved five resolutions, private lawmakers moved 19 resolutions while the remaining 30 were jointly sponsored by ministers and private lawmakers. Six of the 19 private resolutions were initiated by PPPP lawmakers, four each by PML-N and JUI-F lawmakers, three by JI lawmakers and two by PTI lawmakers. Women lawmakers sponsored 13 resolutions, men sponsored 12 while 29 were jointly sponsored by men and women.

During the Assembly's five-year term, the House adopted eight resolutions regarding Indo-Pak relations with special reference to the Kashmir dispute and ceasefire violations along the Line of Control and Working Boundary. The House

AGENDA ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Calling Attention Notices



Resolutions



MuR 259



Legislation



Questions



also condemned the Indian Prime Minister's open admission of Indian involvement in the secession of East Pakistan in 1971. Seven resolutions concerned developments in other predominantly Muslim nations including Bangladesh, Turkey, Palestine, Iran, and various Middle-Eastern states. The House condemned the trials and death sentences of Jamat-e-Islami leaders in Bangladesh on charges of supporting West Pakistan in the 1971 war. The House conveyed its solidarity with the Parliament of Turkey following an unsuccessful coup d'état attempt in Turkey. Another resolution expressed concerns over the Middle Eastern crisis involving Gulf countries and urged the Pakistan government to play a neutral role in forging unity among Muslim countries. Moreover, the House expressed its sympathies with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Islamic Republic of Iran following terrorist attacks in these two countries during August 2016 and June 2017 respectively. The Assembly also condemned Israeli atrocities in Palestine and the blasphemous caricatures of the Prophet of Islam in a French publication. Lately, the House adopted a resolution condemning the US decision to shift its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. In 2015 and 2017, the House passed resolutions in support of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and called upon the international community to take action against their killings. The House also condemned US drone strikes in Pakistani territory and anti-Pakistan statements by US President Donald Trump.

The House appreciated the Pakistan government's diplomatic efforts culminating into the passage of a resolution by the United Nations General Assembly against the use of drone strikes. In separate resolutions, lawmakers condemned terrorist attacks in Brussels, Belgium and Quebec province of Canada. The House also established 88 Parliamentary Friendship Groups through a resolution in order to promote friendly relations with the world. Furthermore, the House offered condolences on the demises of Cuban Leader Fidel Castro, South African Leader Nelson Mandela, victims of an earthquake in Nepal, and several diplomats in a helicopter crash in Gilgit-Baltistan.

EXECUTIVE OVERSIGHT

CALLING ATTENTION NOTICES

Members of the House sought responses and clarifications by the government on various foreign affairs issues through a total of 24 CANs. The House took up 20 (83%) of these notices and asked the concerned ministers to make statements on the highlighted issues. Lawmakers raised questions and concerns on relations with India, developments in Muslim nations, the War on Terror, and the performance of the Pakistan Foreign Office. The CANs concerning India highlighted Indian aggression in Kashmir, the depiction of Gilgit Baltistan as a region of India in international maps, the cross-border smuggling of substandard tea and the potential of religious tourism between Pakistan and India. The CANs concerning Pakistan's relations with Muslim nations highlighted the plight of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, troubles faced by Pakistani workers and pilgrims in Middle Eastern countries including Saudi Arabia and Iran, the negative portrayal of Palestinian struggle for independence and the role of world powers in the Syrian crisis. CANs related to Afghanistan featured issues of border

management, cross-border security threats and drone strikes. CANs concerning Bangladesh sought the government's responses on the trial of Jamat-e-Islami leaders in Bangladesh on charges of supporting Pakistan during the 1971 war and threats issued by the Bangladesh Prime Minister supporters of the Pakistani cricket team. Moreover, lawmakers raised CANs on Pakistan's loss in a crucial United Nations vote, change in venue of OIC Committee's meeting from Pakistan to Kazakhstan, international travel restrictions on Pakistan due to resurgence of the polio virus and anti-Pakistan propaganda in Geneva. Among these, four CANs regarding Rohingya Muslims, tea-smuggling from India, stranded Pakistani pilgrims in Iran and visa-free entry of Afghan citizens into Pakistan remained unaddressed during the 14th Assembly's term.

Among parliamentary parties, PTI appeared more concerned on foreign affairs than others with its lawmakers sponsoring nine of the 24 CANs; seven on their own and two in collaboration with PPPP and AMLP lawmakers. Lawmakers belonging to JUI-F also expressed an almost equally matching interest in the country's foreign affairs by raising seven CANs, three on their own, three in partnership with PML-N lawmakers and one with PML-N and NPP lawmakers. Moreover, JI lawmakers sponsored two CANs, while PML-N, PPPP, MQM, PkMAP, and AMLP each raised one CAN on foreign affairs-related issues. Nearly two thirds of these CANs (16) were jointly sponsored by men and women while five were sponsored exclusively by women.

MOTIONS UNDER RULE 259

Private lawmakers submitted 21 Motions under Rule 259 on issues related to foreign affairs. PTI lawmakers initiated six of these Motions and were followed by lawmakers of JI (five), JUI-F (four), PML-N (three), PPPP (two) and MQM (one). The motions sought discussions in the House followed by formal government responses on Pakistan's relations with its neighbouring countries and the USA, Indian aggression in Kashmir, the performance of the Pakistan Foreign Office vis-à-vis facilitation provided to overseas Pakistanis, Pakistan's stance on the formation of the KSA-led Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition, and agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The House debated only two of the Motions, namely those concerned with Pakistan's Kashmir policy and the country's agreements with IMF. Though the latter may appear to be more of an economic than a foreign affairs issue, lawmakers made several references to foreign policy and national sovereignty while debating the Motion. Notably, the Foreign Minister did not issue statements on any of these Motions. The Assembly's agenda included the Motions seeking discussions on foreign policy and the issues of overseas Pakistanis thrice during different sessions; however, no discussion took place on these issues.

On the other hand, the House held discussions on six government-sponsored Motions. These concerned the situation of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, the 2014 Israeli offensive in, Indian belligerence at the Line of Control and Working Boundary, and US President Donald Trump's controversial statements regarding Pakistan's role in international counter terrorism. The Motions on the Line of Control issue were discussed thrice during the first, second and fourth parliamentary years. A brief discussion during

the first year was followed by the adoption of a resolution condemning Indian aggression at the Line of Control and attacks on the offices of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi. The resolution also recommended conveying to the Indian government the necessity to respect and uphold the Ceasefire Agreement of 2003. The second and third discussions on this issue reiterated similar sentiments regarding Indian aggression and were responded to by the Defence Minister as well the Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs. In his response, the Defence Minister linked Indian aggression to various factors, including CPEC, while the Advisor briefed lawmakers on the government's policy on addressing the problem. The discussion on President Trump's statement regarding Pakistan also included multiple references to CPEC. Lawmakers spoke on the issue at length and explored various policy options available to the country. The discussion concluded with a unanimously adopted resolution recommending the suspension of diplomatic negotiations with the USA and the necessity of diplomatic and economic initiatives to reduce Pakistan's dependence on the super power. The discussion on Myanmar's Rohingya community concluded with a unanimously adopted resolution suggesting ways to the government to highlight the issue at international forums.

QUESTIONS

Nearly five percent or 671 of 13,912 questions listed for the Question Hours during the Assembly's term were related to foreign affairs. Apart from the Foreign Office, the ministries of Interior, Petroleum & Natural Resources, Defence, Commerce, Cabinet Secretariat, Climate Change and Industries & Production were questioned on various matters related to Pakistan's relations with other states. As many as 554 questions were addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on various aspects of foreign policy including but not limited to the performance of the Foreign Office, issues of Pakistani diaspora, and Pakistan's relations with US, India, Russia, China, European states, among others. The questions addressed to the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Resources were related to Iran Pakistan Gas Pipeline (IPGP) and Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India Gas Pipeline (TAPI) projects. The Ministry of Commerce was questioned on Pakistan's trade relations with foreign countries; Ministry of Water and Power on conflict with India over water resources; Ministry of Interior on border issues and exchange of prisoners with neighbouring countries and Pakistani citizens languishing in jails abroad; Ministry of Defence on drone attacks, NATO supply in Afghanistan and Line of Control Violations by India.

Party	Number of Questions	Members
AML	4	1
IND	2	2
JI	48	4
JUI	23	7
MQM	91	13
NPP	1	1
PKMAP	5	2
PML-N	240	32

PPPP	131	16
PTI	126	18
Grand Total	671	

Of the 342 lawmakers representing 18 parliamentary parties in the House, 96 lawmakers of eight parties asked questions on foreign affairs, including foreign policy. As shown in the Table above, 32 lawmakers of PML-N asked 240 questions, 16 of PPP asked 131 questions, 18 of PTI asked 126 questions and 13 of MQM asked 91 questions. Moreover, 15 lawmakers belonging to JUL-F, JI, PkMAP, NPP, AMLP and two independent lawmakers submitted 83 questions on foreign affairs. The government answered 594 of the 671 questions put forth, leaving the remainder unaddressed.



14th ASSEMBLY'S CONTRIBUTION TO ANTI-TERRORISM

ASSEMBLY OUTPUTS

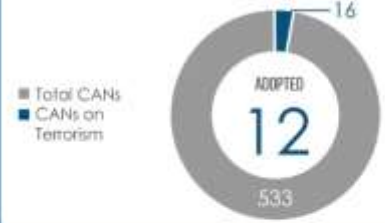
LEGISLATION

The 14th Assembly passed 16 bills aimed at strengthening the government's counter-terrorism efforts. Two amendments to the country's anti-terrorism law of 1997 were among the first legislative proposals approved by the Assembly. One of the amendments provided for swift completion of investigation into terrorism cases and empowered security forces to keep suspected terrorists in preventive detention. It also allowed the use of electronic and forensic evidence for conviction in terrorism cases and introduced new measures such as trials through video-link to ensure the security of witnesses, prosecutors and judges. The second amendment provided for the proscription of organizations involved in terrorist activities and addressed shortcomings in the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 regarding terrorism financing. The anti-terrorism legislative regime was further bolstered by the Protection of Pakistan Act 2017 that provided for in-camera trial of terrorism cases in Special Courts.

The anti-terrorism legislation saw another major development immediately after the terrorist attack on Army Public School (APS), Peshawar. This time, the House amended the Constitution and the Army Act, 1952 to allow military courts to hear terrorism cases. The constitutional amendment bill had a sunset clause providing for expiry of the new arrangement after a two-year period. However, these courts were extended for a further period of two years on their expiry in January 2017 through similar amendments in the Constitution and the Army Act, 1952. The House also legislated for revising the mechanism for registration of foreigners, yet another measure aimed at improving security. The legislation on prevention of electronic crimes was also passed in the backdrop of increasing use of internet and online media for spreading hate speech and extremist ideology. Furthermore,

AGENDA ON TERRORISM

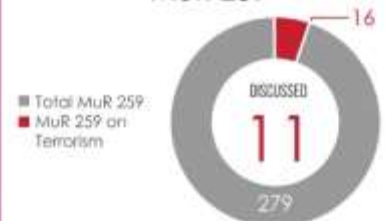
Calling Attention Notices



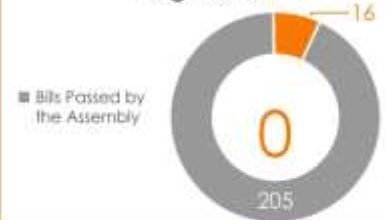
Resolutions



MuR 259



Legislation



Questions



an amendment to the Explosive Substances Act, 1908 provided for speedy trial of persons accused of prohibited dealings of explosive substances. Lastly, the outgoing Assembly also passed a private members' bill received from the Senate. The bill amended the National Counter Terrorism Authority, 2013 necessitating the meeting of NACTA's Executive Committee once in each quarter of a year.

RESOLUTIONS

Lawmakers submitted 38 resolutions on matters related to terrorism, of which the House adopted 29 resolutions – eight sponsored by the government, two by private members and 19 jointly moved by treasury and opposition members. Only 15 of the 38 resolutions – 11 private and four government-sponsored – appeared on the House's Agenda while the remaining 23 were moved as supplementary business.

Four government-sponsored resolutions adopted by the House extended the life of four anti-terrorism ordinances¹ for a period of 90 days starting from their initial date of expiry. Other government-sponsored resolutions condemned the terrorist attack on Government Hospital in Quetta, the murder of 14 labourers in Balochistan and attacks on journalists and media houses. Moreover, the House passed 17 resolutions jointly sponsored by treasury and opposition benches to condemn incidents of terrorism, including attacks on political leaders, places of worship, educational institutions and other public places in various parts of country. The House also passed resolutions in support of the counter-terrorism efforts by the armed forces and against the stereotyping of Pashtuns as terrorists.

Private lawmakers moved 11 resolutions recommending the government to ban sale of toy weapons, improve the federal capital's security, activate NACTA, and take effective steps to curb sectarian violence and incidents of terrorism in the country. Additionally, the lawmakers also moved resolutions to express disapproval of five Presidential Ordinances including two Anti-terrorism (Amendment) Ordinances (VII and VIII of 2013), the Protection of Pakistan Ordinance 2013, the Protection of Pakistan (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 and the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013. Of these private resolutions, only those urging the government to ensure the federal capital's security and take measures to curb terrorism were adopted, whereas the resolution on improving NACTA's effectiveness and functionality was defeated in the vote. The remaining resolutions lapsed.

PPPP and JI each sponsored three private members' resolutions while PTI, MQM, JUI-F and PML-N lawmaker sponsored one each. Moreover, one private members' resolution was jointly moved by PPPP and MQM lawmakers.

¹ The Anti-terrorism (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 (VII of 2013)
The Anti-terrorism (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 (VIII of 2013)
The Protection of Pakistan Ordinance, 2013 (IX of 2013)
The Protection of Pakistan (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 (I of 2014)

EXECUTIVE OVERSIGHT

CALLING ATTENTION NOTICES

During the 14th Assembly's term, lawmakers raised 16 CANs on terrorism-related issues such as extrajudicial killings and foreign-sponsored terrorism in Karachi, delays in post-military operation rehabilitation of tribal areas, arms regulation, security arrangements at Pak-Afghan border and various incidents of terrorism in the country. The House managed to seek the treasury's response on 12 of these CANs while four on the use of illegal arms, rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and a terrorist attack in Quetta remained unaddressed.

Lawmakers affiliated with PTI and MQM and independent Members from FATA actively used CANs to highlight terrorism-related matters in the House. Each of these groups submitted three CANs; FATA lawmakers on post-military operation rehabilitation of tribal areas, PTI on ethnic profiling of Pashtuns as terrorists and incident of terrorism in Islamabad, and MQM on violence in Karachi and terrorist attacks on trains. PPPP lawmakers drew the government's attention to security arrangements at Torkham border and an incident of terrorism in Quetta while JUI-F and JI lawmakers also highlighted the issues of tribal areas bordering Afghanistan in three CANs - soliciting the treasury's reply on land mine casualties in South Waziristan Agency, compensating tribesmen for their losses during military operations and return of FATA IDPs living in Bannu camps. In a joint CAN submitted by five major parliamentary parties (PML-N, PPPP, PTI, MQM and JUI-F), lawmakers raised the issue of journalists' killings in incidents of terrorism.

As many as seven of the 16 terrorism-related CANs were raised by men, three by women and the remaining six jointly by men and women.

MOTIONS UNDER RULE 259

Private lawmakers submitted five Motions seeking discussions on law and order in the country, the NAP, attacks on polio-vaccination workers, and cross-border terrorism. Three of these Motions were initiated by PPPP lawmakers while one each was moved by PTI and JI lawmakers. However, none of these Motions were taken up for discussion during the Assembly's five years.

Instead, the House debated 11 treasury-sponsored motions discussing the country's security following various incidents of terrorism as well as the National Internal Security Policy 2014-18, problems faced by IDPs, and drone strikes in FATA. The House held a nine-sitting discussion regarding the terrorist attack on APS Peshawar in December 2014 that killed 143 students. In the week following the attack, the government announced the 20-point NAP to "come down hard on the terrorists."² The NAP, prepared in an extra-parliamentary All Parties Conference, came under detailed scrutiny during discussion on the incident, an outcome of which was suggestions to the government for effective implementation of the Plan. Similar discussions were held

² For NAP details, see <https://nacta.gov.pk/nap-2014/>

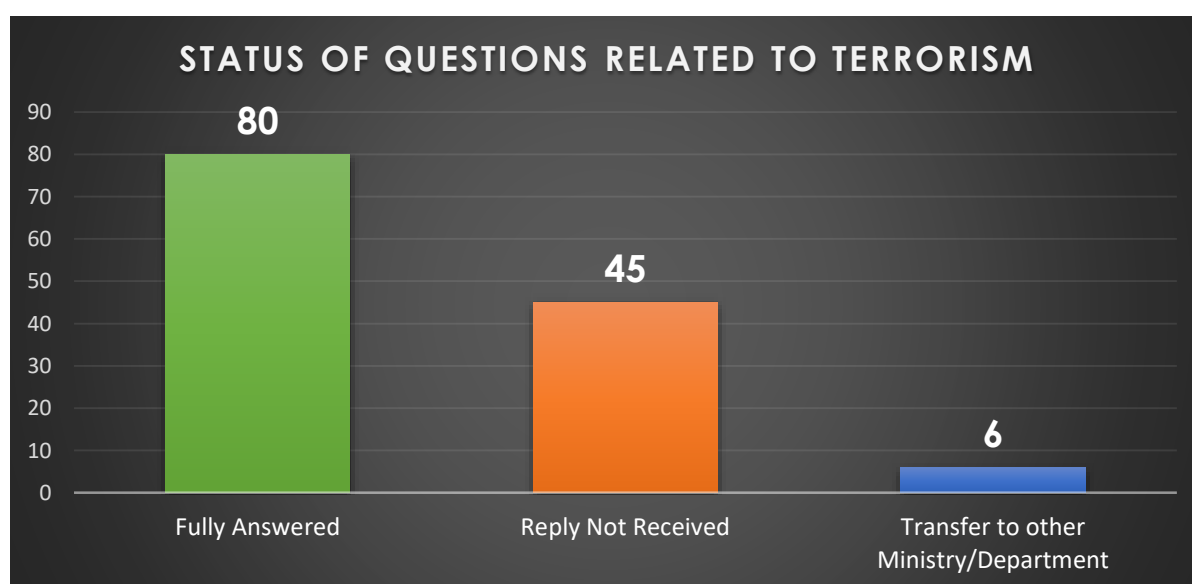
after terrorist attacks on an Imam Bargah in Shikarpur, the All Saints Church in Peshawar, Government Civil Hospital in Quetta, District Courts in Islamabad, a car bomb explosion in Karachi, and a drone strike in North Waziristan Agency. Additionally, the House debated the government's National Internal Security Policy for 2014-18. The policy, framed by a committee of the cabinet, was presented before the House in March 2014.

QUESTIONS

The 14th Assembly submitted 131 questions on issues related to terrorism during its five-year term. The questions were largely addressed to the Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control, and the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions. In addition, the Cabinet Secretariat and Ministries of Defence, Information, Law, Justice and Human Rights, Overseas Pakistanis, and Religious Affairs were also questioned on terrorism-related issues.

Of the 62 questions addressed to the Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control, most were concerned with the NAP, NACTA's performance, information on numbers of terrorists arrested and escaped in various provinces, numbers of terrorists executed and on death row, number of sectarian killings in a specific period, the role of the Federal Government in improving law and order, operations to ensure law and order in Karachi and maintaining biometric data of all prisoners and imprisoned terrorists.

In forty-nine questions addressed to the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions, the movers mainly sought information about special steps for the families affected by terrorism and drone attacks in FATA, rehabilitation of IDPs from FATA, health and education facilities (in camps), and compensation for people affected by the military operations in North-Waziristan.



The questions addressed to the Ministry of Defence were related to steps taken for rehabilitating families affected by drone attacks, the number of soldiers martyred during Operation Zarb-e-Azab, and the terrorists targeted and killed during military operations. The Ministry of Law and Justice received questions seeking information

about the welfare of women and children widowed and orphaned during the Buner Operation, information regarding the number and performance of Anti-Terrorism and Special Courts working in the provinces.



Of the 342 lawmakers belonging to 18 parliamentary parties in the House, 51 lawmakers of eight parties asked questions related to terrorism and anti-terrorism. As many as 12 lawmakers of PPPP asked 42 questions, 14 of PML-N asked 23 questions, eight of MQM put forward 16 questions and eight of PTI asked 12 questions. Moreover, nine lawmakers belonging to JI, JUI-F, AML, PkMAP and PML-F lawmakers submitted 38 questions on the subject of terrorism. The government answered 80 of 131 questions while the rest remained unaddressed.

Party	Questions	Members
AML	1	1
JI	16	4
JUI	17	2
MQM	16	8
PKMAP	3	1
PML-F	1	1
PML-N	23	14
PPPP	42	12
PTI	12	8
Total	131	51

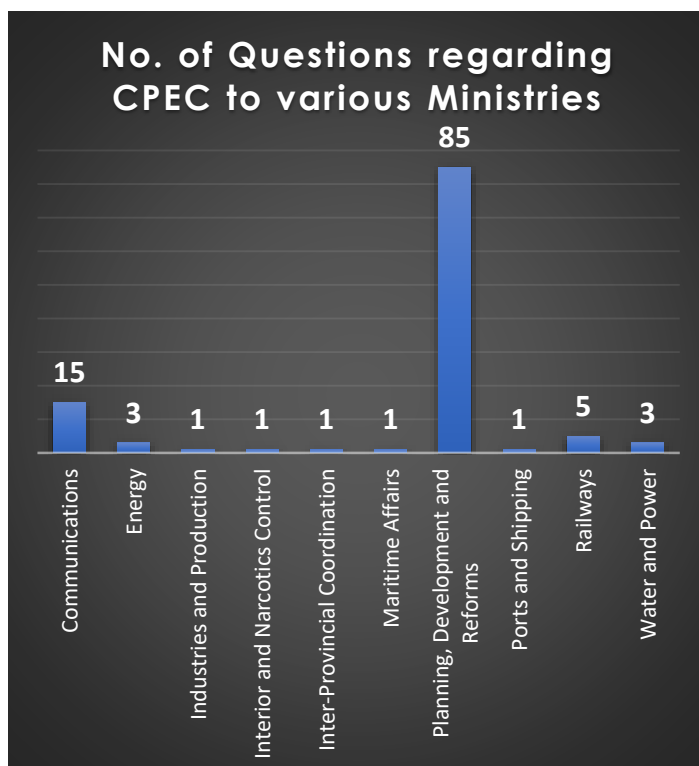
14th ASSEMBLY'S CONTRIBUTION ON China Pakistan Economic Corridor

EXECUTIVE OVERSIGHT

PPPP lawmakers sought explanation from the government on charging additional security expenses from electricity consumers for CPEC's overall security. Taken up during the fourth parliamentary year, the issue was addressed by the Minister of State for Water and Power.

QUESTIONS

Around one percent or 116 of 13,912 questions appearing in the Question Hours during the 14th Assembly's term were related to CPEC. These questions were addressed to various ministries and government departments, including the Ministries of Communications, Energy, Industries and Production, Interior, Inter-Provincial Coordination, Maritime Affairs, Planning, Development & Reforms, Ports & Shipping, Railways, and Water & Power.



As many as 85 questions were put forward to Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms. The sponsors of the questions inquired about the details of CPEC projects launched in various provinces and FATA, including information on the progress on these projects and their benefits (especially concerning the provincial distribution of jobs), and CPEC routes. The questions addressed to the Ministry of Communication mainly inquired about the on-going road projects under CPEC, the percentage of work completed on the Eastern and Western routes, income expected from the CPEC roads under construction during the forthcoming decade, and details of roads and motorways under construction or completed.

In five questions addressed to the Ministry of Railways, the movers asked about the steps taken by the government to upgrade railway tracks, including Karachi-Peshawar Railway Track under CPEC, and the benefits accruing to Pakistan Railways. The Ministries of Energy and Water & Power received three questions each. The Ministry of Interior received questions about the number of local population recruited for CPEC's security, while the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination was asked about taking up CPEC for discussion in the Council of Common Interests.

Of the 342 lawmakers affiliated with 18 parliamentary parties in the House, 11 PPPP lawmakers asked 33 questions regarding CPEC followed by 30 questions by 13 PTI lawmakers and 22 questions by 11 PML-N lawmakers. Moreover, three JI lawmakers asked 12 questions, two PkMAP lawmakers asked nine questions, four MQM lawmakers asked one question each, a BNP lawmaker also asked four questions while a JUI-F lawmaker asked two questions related to CPEC. The government answered 96 of 116 questions while 20 questions remained unaddressed.

Party	Questions	Members
BNP	4	1
JI	12	3
JUI	2	1
MQM	4	4
PKMAP	9	2
PML-N	22	11
PPPP	33	11
PTI	30	13
Total	116	46

About **FAFEN**

- **FAFEN** is one of the most credible networks of civil society organizations working for strengthening citizens' voice and accountability in Pakistan since 2006.
- **FAFEN** has harnessed information technology for real-time monitoring, facilitation and technical backstopping of partners for effective and result-based program delivery.
- **FAFEN** is the only civil society group to have been invited by the Judicial Commission to present the evidence of illegalities and irregularities documented through the course of General Elections 2013 Observation. The systemic and procedural issues identified by FAFEN have been acknowledged by the commission in its detailed findings.
- **FAFEN's** recommendations for electoral reforms have contributed to the work of Parliamentary Committee for Electoral Reforms.
- **FAFEN's** advocacy for parliamentary transparency, accountability and reforms has shaped public discourse on parliamentary reforms. Improved citizens' access to parliamentary information including daily public release of parliamentarians' attendance records can be directly attributed to FAFEN's work.
- **FAFEN** deployed 18,000 and 40,000 non-partisan and trained observers for the systematic observation of general election 2008 and 2013, respectively, largest citizens' observation ever undertaken in Pakistan.
- **FAFEN's** evidence and recommendations for reforms have improved the quality of public and political discourse on elections, its issues and need for reforms. Leading political parties and media houses extensively use FAFEN's election findings and analysis to build a case for reforms.

With over 20,000 followers on Twitter and around 135,000 on Facebook, **FAFEN** is considered one of the most reliable sources of electoral and parliamentary information in the country.

Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) is a network of Pakistani civil society organizations and governed by the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA)



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