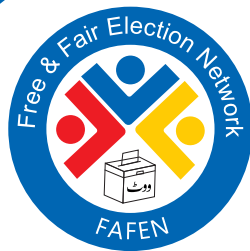


PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF PUNJAB

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

6th SESSION

January 7 – January 25, 2019



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Session
Number

6

Working
Days

19

Actual
Sittings

15

Working
Hours

32

Hours & 41 Minutes

73% LAWMAKERS REMAIN INACTIVE DURING SIXTH SESSION OF PUNJAB ASSEMBLY

ISLAMABAD, January 30, 2019: Nearly three quarters (73%) of the legislators did not participate in the proceedings of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab during sixth session that continued between January 7 and January 25, 2019.

As many as 101 lawmakers or 27 percent of the total membership including 29 women and 72 men participated in the proceedings of the House by contributing to the agenda and/or participating in debates. The participating lawmakers included 46 members each of PTI and PML-N, five of PML, three of PPPP and one of PRHP.

The remaining 268 (73 percent) lawmakers including 41 women did not participate in the proceedings throughout the session. The non-participating members included 132 belonging to PTI, followed by PML-N (121), PML (six), PPPP (five) and four independent lawmakers.

The House addressed 95 percent of its scheduled business including six government bills, as many amendments to the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, 15 resolutions, nine Calling Attention Notices (CANs), 22 Adjournment Motions (AMs), 13 Zero Hour Notices and 209 questions including 84 Starred Questions. Additionally, the House adopted three supplementary resolutions during the proceedings. On the other hand, the Assembly skipped two scheduled discussions on farmers' issues and annual reports of development authorities.

The lawmakers discussed the incident of civilian killings in Sahiwal for an hour and 44 minutes while the government also briefed the House in-camera during 14th sitting. Moreover, the House spent six hours and seven minutes (20 percent) on Points of Order discussing issues related to governance, law and order, education and House business while the sitting remained suspended for an hour and three minutes (five percent) due to lack of quorum or breaks.

On an average, 198 lawmakers were marked present during the sixth session (excluding the sitting held in-camera) as compared to 221 lawmakers during previous session. The opposition lawmakers staged seven walkouts and two protests over the issues related to business of the House, problems faced by journalists and placing the names of PPPP leadership on Exit Control List (ECL). Moreover, they identified the quorum four times that led to suspension of the proceedings for 10 minutes and two early adjournments of sittings.

Average Delay

1

Hour & 34 Minutes

Members at Outset (Average)

60 present

Members at End (Average)

63 present

Maximum Members (Average)

198

1 Session, Duration and Attendance

The headcounts conducted by FAFEN observer suggest that 60 (16 percent) lawmakers, on an average, were present at the start and 63 (17 percent) at the adjournment of every sitting. Moreover, each sitting started an hour and 34 minutes behind the scheduled time and lasted for two hours and 11 minutes, on an average. The cumulative duration of 15 sittings was 31 hours and eight minutes.

The Speaker attended four sittings and presided over the proceedings for eight hours and 19 minutes (27 percent of the session) while the Deputy Speaker attended nine sitting and chaired the proceedings for 13 hours and 47 minutes (44 percent of the session). In addition, a Member of Panel of Chairpersons belonging to PTI chaired the proceedings for nine hours and two minutes (29 percent of the session).

The Leader of the House (Chief Minister) attended only one sitting during the session for 17 minutes (one percent) while the Leader of the Opposition remained present in three sittings for two hours and seven minutes (seven percent).

The parliamentary leader of PPPP attended 11 sittings while the sole member of PRHP was present in six sittings.

2 Assembly Output

This section deals with the legislative business, resolutions, amendment to the rules, reports and documents presented before the House during the session.

2.1 Legislation

The legislative business of sixth session comprised six government bills. The House approved four bills while one was deferred and another introduced. A brief description of the passed bills is following:

1 The Punjab Right to Public Services Bill, 2018

The bill provides for delivery of public services to the citizens within the stipulated time limit and includes the liabilities of the government servants in case of failing to provide timely services.

Status: Passed

Date of Introduction: December 12, 2018

Date of Presentation of Committee Report: January 07, 2019

Date of Consideration and Passage: January 14, 2019

2 The Punjab Domestic Workers Bill, 2018

The bill seeks to regulate the employment of domestic workers in the Punjab and also provides for protection of the domestic workers' rights, working conditions and provision of social protection and welfare to them.

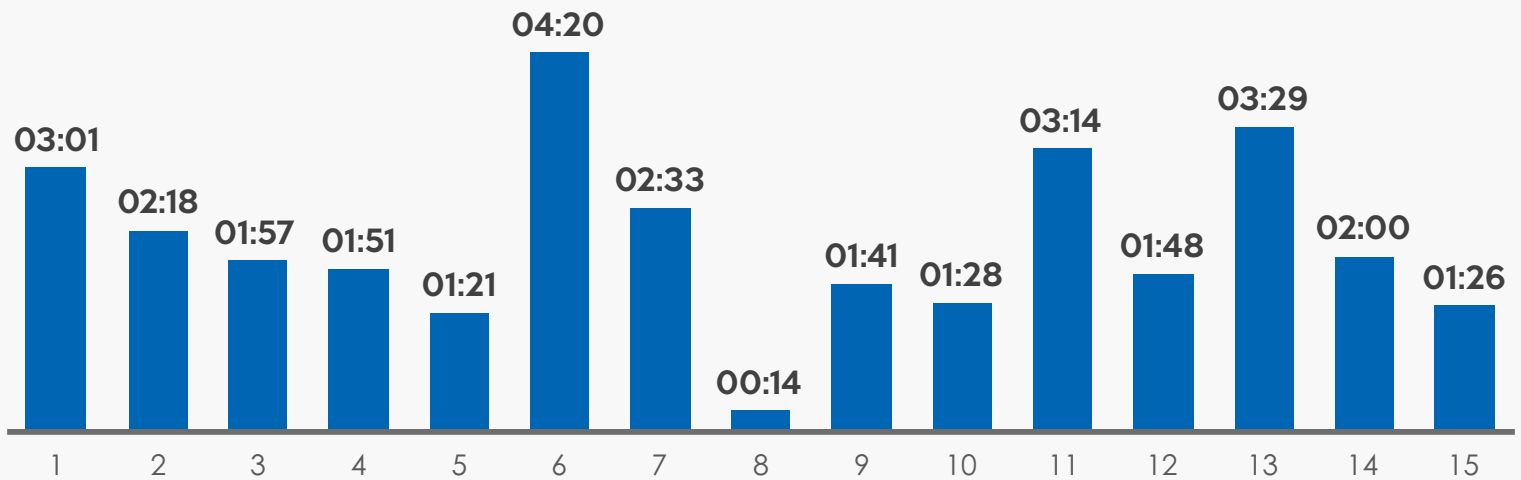
Status: Passed

Date of Introduction: December 12, 2018

Date of Presentation of Committee Report: January 9, 2019

Date of Consideration and Passage: January 23, 2019

SITTINGS DURATION (hh:mm)



KEY MEMBERS ATTENDANCE



SPEAKER

4/15

Presiding Time (hh:mm)

08:19



DEPUTY SPEAKER

9/15

Presiding Time (hh:mm)

13:47



CHIEF MINISTER

1/15

Attended Time (hh:mm)

00:17



LEADER OF OPPOSITION

3/15

Attended Time (hh:mm)

02:07

PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ATTENDANCE



PPPP

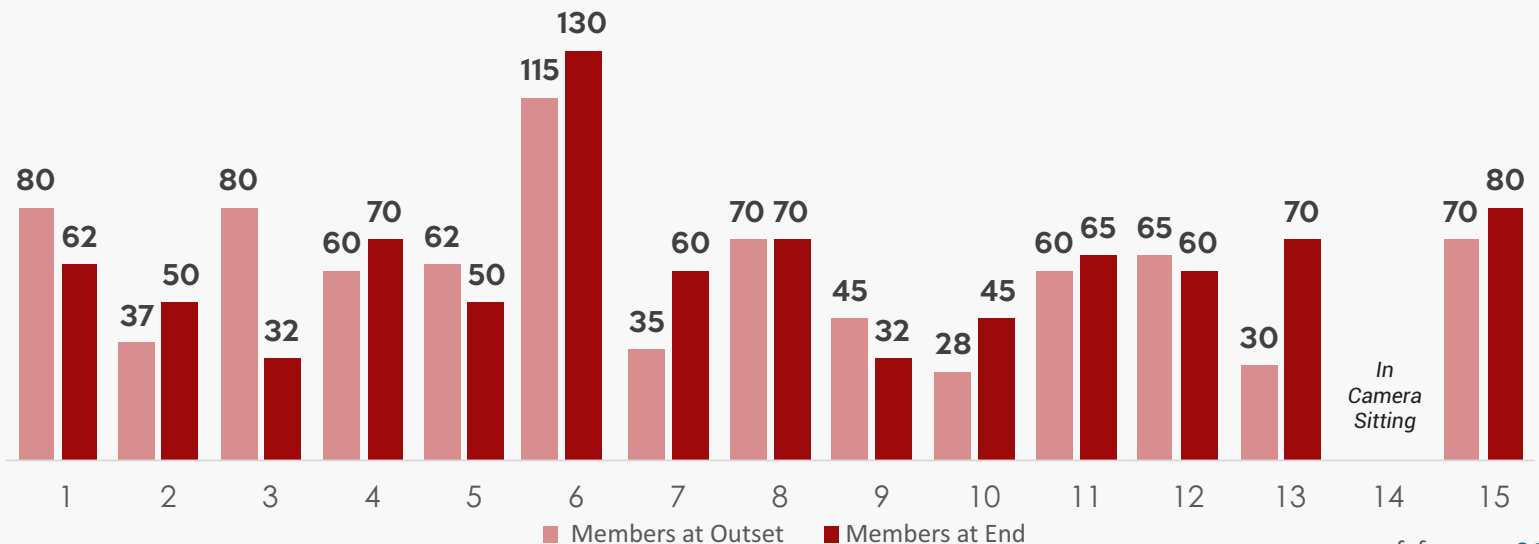
11/15



RHP

6/15

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



6

Total Bills

1

Bill Introduced

1

Bill Deferred

4

Bills Passed

3 The Namal Institute Mianwali Bill, 2019

The bill provides a statutory framework for the establishment of a private sector educational institution named the Namal Institute Mianwali.

Status: Passed

Date of Introduction: January 10, 2019

Date of Presentation of Committee Report: January 18, 2019

Date of Consideration and Passage: January 23, 2019

4 The Punjab Occupational Safety and Health Bill, 2019

The Bill seeks to enact a law for the occupational safety and health of the persons at workplace and protecting them against risks arising out of the occupational hazards.

Status: Passed

Date of Introduction: January 9, 2019

Date of Presentation of Committee Report: January 18, 2019

Date of Consideration and Passage: January 23, 2019

5 The Punjab Prevention of Conflict of Interest Bill, 2018

Status: Referred to Committee

Date of Introduction: December 12, 2018

Date of Presentation of Committee Report: January 7, 2019

6 The Mir Chakar Khan Rind University of Technology Dera Ghazi Khan Bill, 2019

Status: Introduced and Referred to concerned Standing Committee

Date of Introduction: January 25, 2019

Due Date for Presentation of Committee Report: Within Two Months from the Date of Introduction

2.2 Amendments in the Rules of Procedure

The House approved six amendments in the Rules of Procedure of Assembly moved by Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs. A brief description of these amendments is as following:

Subject-wise Amendments

1 Membership of Committees:

The House amended Rules 149, 176 and 180 to increase the number of members in the Standing Committees, Public Accounts Committee and the Committee on Privileges. The number of members in the standing committee was increased from 10 to 11 while the members of Public Accounts Committee and Committee on Privilege were increased from 13 to 17.

2 Production of Members in Custody for Sitzings of the Assembly:

The House approved the addition of a new Rule 179-A in the Assembly's Rules of Procedure authorizing the Speaker to summon a member for the Assembly's sitting who is in the custody of law enforcement institutions on the charge of a non-bailable offence.

6

Amendments
Taken Up

18

Total
Resolutions

6

Resolutions
Adopted

8

Reports
Presented

3 New Standing Committees

The Assembly amended Rule 148 to bifurcate four standing committees in to eight committees. The Standing Committee on School and Higher Education was split in to the Standing Committee on School Education and the Standing Committee on Higher Education. The Standing Committee on Primary and Secondary Healthcare, Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education was split in to the Standing Committee on Primary and Secondary Healthcare and the Standing Committee on Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education. The Standing Committee on Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Public Prosecution was split in to the Standing Committee on Law and Parliamentary Affairs and the Standing Committee on Public Prosecution. Similarly, a single committee on irrigation and energy was bifurcated into two separate committees on these subjects.

4 Quorum of Standing Committees:

The House amended Rule 159 to increase the quorum for a sitting of a committee from three members to four members.

2.3 Resolutions

The government and private members moved 18 resolutions during the session. The House adopted only six of these resolutions while eight resolutions were kept pending, three were withdrawn by the movers and one was rejected by the House. Out of resolutions adopted by the House, two were addressed to the federal government and four to the provincial government.

Through resolutions, the House condemned Indian atrocities in Occupied Kashmir; offered condolences for the deceased PTI lawmaker Mazhar Abbas Raan; congratulated Pakistan Army for shooting down an Indian spy drone; and recommended the government to link the advertising-payments to media houses with the payment of salaries to journalists, amend the laws to declare a seat vacant if a member-elect does not take oath within three months of the election, and devise a farmer-friendly wheat-purchase policy.

The House rejected a PTI lawmaker's resolution recommending to build a separate track for ambulances in Punjab. Moreover, the lawmakers withdrew three resolutions concerning the ban on illegal sale of petrol, ban on beggary in the cities where shelter homes were established and changing the name of Benazir Income Support Program (BISP). The deferred resolutions highlighted the issues relating to National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), educational curricula, class-room size, road toll taxes, career counselling and health.

The private members' resolutions were moved by lawmakers belonging to 11 of PTI, three of PML-N, and two of PML.

2.3 Reports

The special committees constituted by the House to review the legislative proposals presented their reports on eight bills during the session. Below is the list of these bills:

84

Starred Questions

125

Supplementary Questions

17

Questions Not Taken Up

11

Question Disposed of

- 1 The Punjab Prevention of Conflict of Interest Bill, 2018
- 2 The Punjab Right to Public Services Bill, 2018
- 3 The Punjab Skills Development Authority Bill, 2018
- 4 The Punjab Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority Bill, 2018
- 5 The Punjab Board of Technical Education Bill, 2018
- 6 The Punjab Domestic Workers Bill, 2018
- 7 The Punjab Occupational Safety and Health Bill, 2019
- 8 The Namal Institute Mianwali Bill, 2019

Moreover, the House granted one-month extension to the Special Committee-III for presenting its reports on proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab 1997 regarding issuance of production orders for detained/arrested lawmakers and an adjournment motion. In addition, the House debated the Annual Report of the Punjab Public Service Commission. As many as two lawmakers including the Minister Law participated in the debate for six minutes. The report was laid before the House on October 18, 2017 during the tenure of previous Assembly.

3

Representation, Responsiveness and Government Oversight

This section gives statistical as well as qualitative overview of legislator's interventions in the House – Calling Attention Notices (CANs), Questions, Adjournment Motions (AM) or any other motions – for the oversight of government and to articulate issues of public interest and importance.

3.1 Questions

According to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Punjab Assembly, the first hour of a sitting of the House is reserved for asking and answering of question by the members.

The List of Questions scheduled for answers during the session included 84 Starred and 125 Unstarred Questions. A Starred Question requires oral as well as written reply while an unstarred question requires only a written reply. The House took up 44 (52 percent) Starred Questions for oral answers during the 12 Question Hours held during the session. Of the remaining 40 questions, 11 (26 percent) were not discussed during the proceedings due to absence of the movers or the concerned ministers, while 17 (20 percent) were not taken up due to shortage of time. The remaining questions were kept pending till the prorogation of the session. In addition, the lawmakers asked 125 supplementary questions. The government did not provide written answers to 10 Unstarred Questions. These unanswered questions were addressed to the ministries of Interior, Auqaf and Religious Affairs, Revenue and Colonies, and Environment Protection.

As many as 45 lawmakers including 27 men and 18 women exercised their right to scrutinize the government performance by asking questions. The members asking questions included 29 of PML-N, 15 of PTI, two of PPPP and

9

Calling Attention Notices

8

CANs Taken Up

1

CAN Disposed of

22

Adjournment Motions

one each of PML and PRHP. The lawmakers belonging to PML-N asked 156 questions, PTI asked 31, PPPP 13, PRHP seven and PML asked two questions.

The questions appearing on the list were addressed to 23 departments of the government and their break-up was as following:

Ministries	Number of Questions
Local Government and Community Development	29
Communication & Works	18
Zakat & Ushr	14
Higher Education	12
Interior	12
School Education	12
Social Welfare and Bait ul Mal	12
Food	11
Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department	11
Auqaf and Religious Affairs	9
Forestry, Fisheries & Wildlife	9
Revenue and Colonies	9
INDUSTRIES, COMMERCE & INVESTMENT	8
Excise, Taxation & Narcotics Control Departments	7
Agriculture	6
Irrigation	6
Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education	6
Transport	6
Environment Protection	4
Labour & Human Resource	4
Law and Parliamentary Affairs	2
Provincial Disaster Management Authority	1
Services General Administration Department	1
Total	209

3.2 Call Attention Notices

The Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs responded to eight out of nine Call Attention Notices (CANs) appearing on the agenda. The addressed CANs highlighted the law and order situation in the province such as Dacoity of cattle and other valuables Sadar Tandlianwala, snatching of jewelry from a woman in Sialkot, incidents of murder in Sialkot, Khanewal, Gujrat, Dera Ghazi Khan and Bahawalpur, rape and killing of a nine year old girl in Lahore. Another CAN about incident of murder in Rawalpindi was disposed of due to absence of the mover. Lawmakers belonging to PML-N raised six CANs, PTI lawmakers two and PML lawmaker one.

3.3 Adjournment Motion

The government ministers responded to seven out of 22 Adjournment Motions (AMs) regarding encroachment drive to recover government land, an incident of harassment and torture in Rawalpindi, death of an infant due to negligence of doctors in Sir Ganga Ram Hospital Lahore, storage of expired medicines in Institute of Cardiology Faisalabad, increase in road

61

Members raising Points of Order

1

Question of Privilege

13

Zero Hour Notices

4

Instances of Identification of Quorum

accidents due to electronic advertisement boards in Lahore, Indian atrocities in Kashmir and harassment of general public by Dolphin Police in Lahore. An AM regarding storage of wheat storage was admitted for discussion in the House but the discussion did not take place.

Moreover, the House referred an AM regarding harassment of a junior doctor by Medical Superintendent of Banazir Bhutto Hospital was referred to Special Committee-III for review and recommendation. The House kept 13 AMs pending till the adjournment of the session without any discussion.

As many as 14 lawmakers – seven of PML-N, six of PTI and one of PML– exercised their right to raise matters of public importance through AMs. The lawmakers belonging to PTI and PML-N moved 10 AMs each and PML two.

3.4 Zero Hour

The members raised 13 Zero Hour notices during the session to highlight the matters of public importance regarding commercial policy of Lahore Development Authority (LDA), overweight vehicles damaging the roads, registration of imported luxury vehicles, installation of advance protection barriers on under passes in Lahore, nonfunctional water filtration plants in Bahawalpur, closure of Fateh Garh bridge, extortion cases in Faisalabad, destruction of crops by wild pigs in Kotli Sattian and increase in rate of accidents on Indus Highway. The government responded to nine of these notices while four notices were deferred due to absence of the relevant ministers.

3.5 General Discussion

The House held a discussion on the issues related to law and order in the province. As many as 29 lawmakers (15 PML-N, 13 PTI and 1 PPP) participated in the discussion on law and order situation specifically Sahiwal Incident where unarmed civilians were killed. The House did not hold the scheduled discussion on food and the Annual Reports of Development Authorities of Rawalpindi, Multan, Gujranwala and Faisalabad for the Year 2012-13.

4 Order and Institutionalization

Order and institutionalization are important for an efficient and productive legislature. This section provides information about Points of Order, Questions of Privilege, Quorum and any instances of walkout, protest or boycott during the proceeding.

4.1 Question of Privilege

Moved by PML-N lawmaker, the House deferred a QoP regarding demolishing of legal property against High Court's decision due to absence of relevant minister.

7

Walkouts

2

Protests

4.2 Points of Order

Lawmakers spoke on 271 Points of Order (POs) during the session, consuming six hours and seven minutes of the proceedings (20 percent of the session). The issues related to the House business, law and order, education as well as governance matters were amongst main issues discussed through POs

4.3 Walkout/Protest

The opposition lawmakers staged seven walkouts and two protests during the session. The lawmakers belonging to PML-N walked out against the alleged interruption by the assembly secretariat staff in the House proceedings and unsatisfactory reply on question from the ministry of Local Government and Community Development. PPPP lawmakers walked out over unduly nominated Panel of Chairpersons presiding over the sitting, placing the names of PPPP leadership on Exit Control List and no representation of PPPP in the Special Committee constituted to review the legislative proposals. The opposition lawmakers jointly walked out from the proceedings twice in solidarity with journalists against Information Minister's behavior with them and against downsizing of journalists by employers. The on-floor protests were held to demand a discussion on the killing of unarmed civilians in Sahiwal. The protests continued for Both protests were for five and 10 minutes, respectively.

4.4 Quorum

The lawmakers belonging to PML-N identified the lack of quorum four times during the proceedings. This caused two sittings to be adjourned, while a sitting was suspended for 10 minutes. On another occasion, the quorum was complete on headcount.

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 more than 24,000 followers on Twitter and around 144,000 on Facebook, FAFEN is considered one of the most reliable sources of electoral and parliamentary information in the country.

Free and Fair Election Network
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This report is based on direct observation of the proceedings of the Punjab Assembly conducted by PATTAN Development Organization – a member organization of FAFEN. Every effort has been made to keep this report, which deals with on-floor performance of the Members, accurate and comprehensive. Errors and omissions are excepted.