

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF PUNJAB

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR 10th SESSION

June 13 – June 28, 2019



FREE AND FAIR ELECTION NETWORK

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Session
Number

10

Working
Days

16

Actual
Sittings

12

Working
Hours

27

Hours & 49 Minutes

PUNJAB ASSEMBLY TAKES UP 88 PERCENT AGENDA DURING TENTH SESSION

- **67 percent lawmakers remain inactive during Budget Discussion**
- **Women MPs participate more actively than Men during Budget Speeches**

The Provincial Assembly of Punjab addressed 88 percent of its scheduled agenda during 10th session and also passed the provincial budget for financial year 2019-20, observes Free and Fair Election Networks (FAFEN) in its session report.

The regular business transacted by the House included six legislative proposals, seven reports and papers, four resolutions, two Call Attention Notices (CANs), an amendment to the assembly rules and nine starred questions.

The House passed the Punjab Finance Bill, 2019 and approved 41 Demands for Grants pertaining to various public departments while it rejected seven cut motions of opposition lawmakers with majority votes.

Of 369 lawmakers, 121 (33 percent) contributed to the budget debate. Among them, 41 were female legislators while 80 were male lawmakers. The interest of women legislators in budget was higher than men lawmakers in context of their total membership in the House.

As many as 41 of 73 women MPs (56 percent) while 80 out of 296 (27 percent) men legislators participated in budget debate. The members belonged to PTI (55), PML-N (53), PPPP (six), PML (four), two independent candidates and one belonging to PRHP actively participated in budget debate.

On the other hand, 248 (67 percent) lawmakers did not take part in the budget debate. Amongst them, 126 belonged to PTI, 113 to PML-N, six to PML, two independent candidates and one belonged to PPPP remained among inactive members during the budget debate.

Average Delay

1

Hour & 21 Minutes

Members at Outset (Average)

78

present

Members at End (Average)

103

present

Maximum Members (Average)

225

1 Session, Duration and Attendance

The 10th session of Punjab Assembly comprised 12 sittings and it commenced on June 13, 2019 and prorogued on June 28, 2019. The low attendance of the lawmakers marked the session as an average of 21 percent lawmakers were observed to be present at the start and 28 percent at the end of each sitting.

Each sitting, on average, started an hour and 21 minutes behind the schedule and lasted two hours and 21 minutes, on average.

The Speaker attended nine out of 12 sittings and presided 44 percent of the session's time. The Deputy Speaker, on the other hand, remained present in 11 sittings and chaired 40 percent of the proceedings. The Members of the Panel of Chairpersons presided the remaining 16 percent of the session's time.

The Leader of the House remained present in five sittings and attended ten percent of the session's time, while the Opposition Leader was present in six sittings attending 19 percent of the proceedings.

The parliamentary leaders of PRHP attended ten sittings, followed by PPPP (seven). However, parliamentary leaders of PTI and PML-N did not attend any sitting.

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 brought before the House during 10th session comprised two ordinances and five government bills. One of the bill – the Punjab Finance Bill, 2019 – was introduced on June, 13 2019 and passed on June 26, 2019.

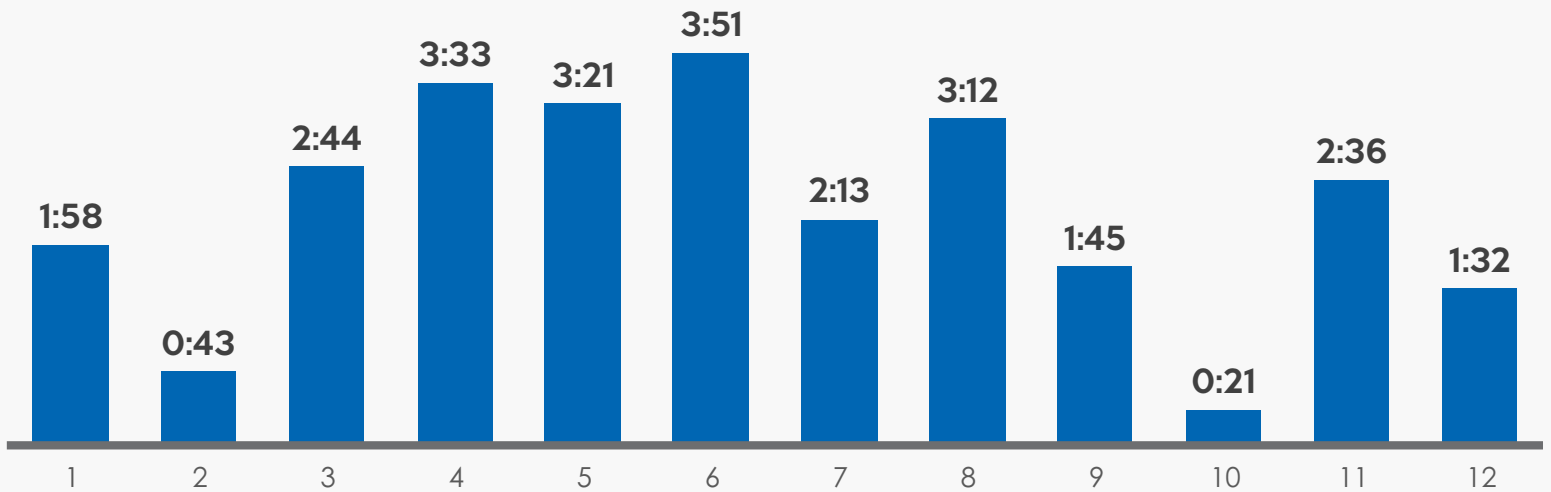
Three legislative proposals including the Punjab Zakat and Ushr (Amendment) Bill, 2019; the Punjab Water Bill, 2019 and the Punjab Sentencing Bill, 2019 were introduced and referred to the relevant standing committees for further deliberations.

A bill – the Punjab Alternate Dispute Resolution Bill 2019 – remained unaddressed during the session while the Punjab Khal Panchayat Ordinance 2019 and the Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance 2019 were presented in the House.

2.2 Resolutions

The Provincial Assembly adopted four resolutions pertaining to the extension of the ordinances for further period of 90 days. These ordinances included the Provincial Employees' Social Security (Amendment) Ordinance 2019, the Punjab Zakat and Ushr (Amendment) Ordinance 2019,

SITTINGS DURATION (hh:mm)



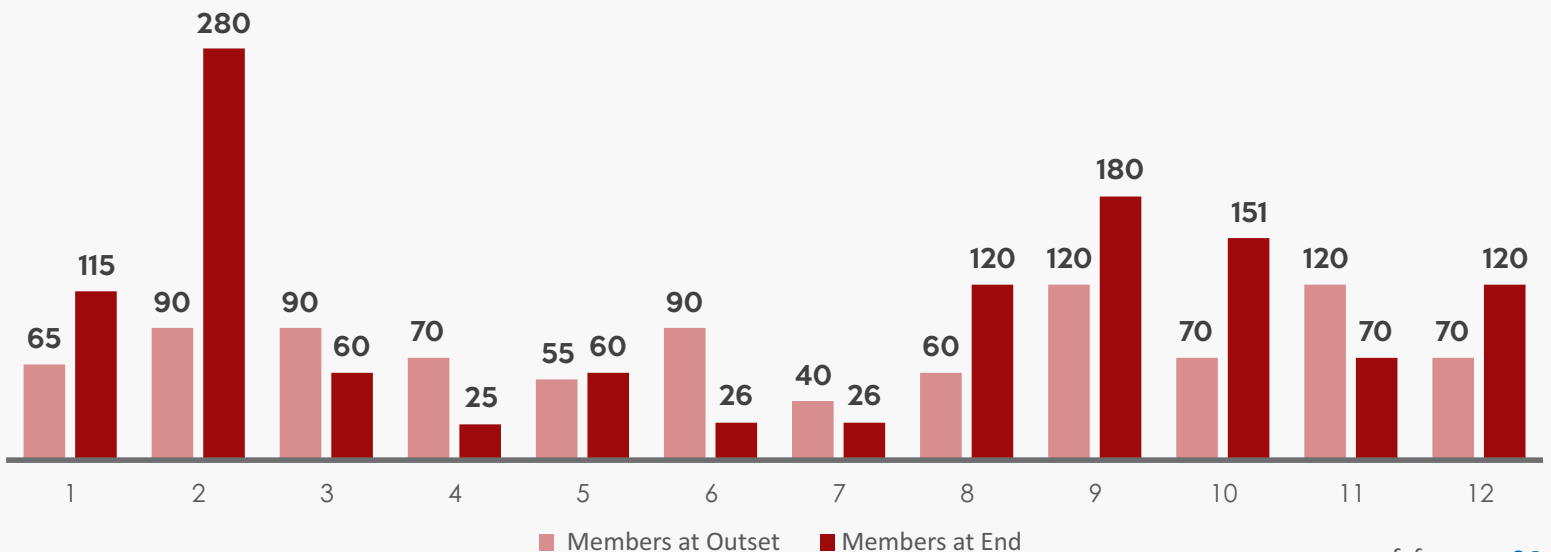
KEY MEMBERS ATTENDANCE



PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ATTENDANCE



MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



5

Total Bills

3

Bill Introduced

1

Bill Passed

1

Bill Not Taken up

the Punjab Khal Panchayat Ordinance 2019 and the Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance 2019.

2.3 Reports and Papers

The House witnessed presentation of four financial and budgetary papers while three reports of the Standing Committees on Law on legislative proposal were also presented during this period.

| Sr. | Reports/Papers Name | Type | Status |
|-----|--|---------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | The Punjab Judicial Academy report for the year 2015-2016 | Standing Committee Report | Presented |
| 2 | The Punjab Public Service Commission report for the year 2017 | Standing Committee Report | Presented |
| 3 | The Punjab Alternative Dispute Resolution Bill 2019 | Standing Committee Report | Presented |
| 4 | The Annual Budget Statement for the year 2019-2020 | Financial Paper | Presented |
| 5 | The Supplementary Budget Statement for the year 2018-2019 | Financial Paper | Presented |
| 6 | The Schedule of Authorized Expenditure for the Year 2019-2020 | Financial Paper | Presented |
| 7 | The Authenticated Schedule of authorized expenditures for the year 2018-2019 | Financial Paper | Presented |

2.4 Amendments to the Rules of Procedure

The Assembly's Rules of Procedure can be amended with a majority vote on a motion initiated by any member of the House. An Amendment to the rule and procedure of the assembly, appearing on the agenda, was not taken up by the House.

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

As per Rules, the House holds 60-minute question hour at the outset of a sitting except on the sittings falling on Saturdays, Sundays and the day set for

1

Amendment Introduced

2

Ordinance Laid

4

Resolutions Adopted

3

Reports Standing Committee

oath taking/elections of key members.

The House held Question hour only in first sitting and took up nine out of 12 starred questions for verbal answers. In addition, the lawmakers asked 18 supplementary questions as well for further elucidation of the government's replies on starred questions.

The ministry wise break-up of starred questions raised during the sole sitting of the session is as following:

| Ministries/Departments | No of Starred Questions Sponsored |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Transport | 12 |
| Total | 12 |

3.2 Call Attention Notices

A lawmaker can call the attention of a minister/department head for any matter involving law and order situation or a definite matter of urgent public importance, by submitting one calling attention notice per sitting. According to Assembly, a calling attention notice cannot be debated and the member moving the notice cannot respond to the reply furnished by the government.

The lawmakers submitted as many as two Call Attention Notices (CANs) appearing on its orders of the day to draw government's attention to the issues of public importance. Sponsored by PML and PML-N lawmakers, both CANs were taken up for answers during the session which were related to law and order issues.

3.3 General Discussion on Budget

The Provincial Assembly during its 10th session also witnessed presentation of Provincial Annual Budget for Financial Year 2019-2020. The Finance Minister made his budget speech after presentation of finance bill during 2nd sitting on June 24, 2019. Following the speech of Finance Minister, the House held general discussion on budget and approved 41 Demands for Grants by rejecting five cut motions on them sponsored by opposition benches and 40 Supplementary Demands for Grants by rejecting two Cut motions sponsored by opposition.

As many as 121 out of 369 sitting members took part in the general discussion on the Finance Bill, 2019 held between June 14 and June 24, 2019. A total of 121 (33 percent of total membership) lawmakers contributed to the budget debate. Among them, 80 (66 percent) were men and 41 (44 percent) were women lawmakers. The interest of female legislators in budget was higher than male lawmakers in context of their total membership in the House. As many as 41 of 73 women MPs (56 percent) while 80 out of 296 (27 percent) men legislators participated in budget debate. The participating lawmakers belonged to PML-N (53), PTI (55), PPPP (six), PML (four), Independent (two) and PHRP (one).

As many as 248 lawmakers including 216 male and 32 female did not take part in the budget debate. Amongst them, 113 belonged to PML-N, 126 to PTI, six to PML, two were Independents and one from PPPP.

12

Starred
Questions

18

Supplementary
Questions

2

Calling
Attention
Notices

3

Protests

The debate on budget continued for 19 hours and 20 minutes (70 percent of total session's time) in which lawmakers belonging to PML-N debated the budget for almost half of the total debate time.

4 Order and Institutionalization

Order and Institutionalization are important for an efficient and productive legislature. This section provides information about Points of Order, quorum and any instances of walkout during the proceedings.

4.1 Points of Order

Lawmakers spoke on 47 Points of Order (POs) during the session, consuming an hour and 27 minutes of the proceedings. They discussed the House business, political issues, law and order as well as governance related matters through POs.

4.2 Walkout/Protest

The opposition and government lawmakers staged protests on four occasions during the session consuming an hour and 14 minutes of the proceedings. The major causes behind these protests were interruption and criticism by members from both sides of aisle during proceedings and debate on budget.

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 25,300 followers on Twitter and around 141,000 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.