

Top parliamentary performers in the 13th National Assembly

Shireen Arshad Khan; Nisar Tanveer;
Nuzhat Sadiq; Yasmeen Rehman;
Donya Aziz Among Top Performing MPs

March 2008 to January 2013

The legislators of the main opposition party, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN), actively took part in the parliamentary proceedings during the five years in the 13th National Assembly. They sponsored the most agenda items, including oversight over the executive through the Question Hour and Calling Attention Notices, and representation by raising issues of public interest through Matters of Public Importance, Motions under Rule 259, and Resolutions.

However Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) and Pakistan Muslim League (PML) legislators took lead in legislation, introducing most number of Private Members' bills.

Moreover women parliamentarians on reserved seats tabled most number of Questions, Calling Attention Notices, Private Members' Bills, Resolutions, Motions under Rule 259 and Matters of Public Importance.

PMLN legislator Shireen Arshad Khan authored the most 35 Resolutions – 27 individually and eight jointly. Similarly, PMLN's Nisar Tanveer asked the most number of questions 535 – 322 starred and 213 unstarred during 48 sessions of the 13th National Assembly. She was followed by Shireen Arshad Khan who sponsored 527 Questions. Again Nisar Tanveer raised the most - 30 - Matters of Public Importance while her party colleague Khalida Mansoor topped the list of Motions under Rule 259 by submitting 31 Motions. The Leader of the Opposition, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, raised the most Points of Order 287, followed by Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Syed Khurshid Shah.

PPPP's Yasmeen Rehman authored the most number of



Private Members' Bills either in collaboration with her colleagues or in her individual capacity. She was followed by Donya Aziz (PML), Marvi Memon (ex-Member PML), Shakeela Khanam Rashid (PPPP) and Naseer Bhutta (PMLN).

Five Years at a Glance

The 13th National Assembly, which took oath on March 17, 2008, worked to achieve political maturity leading to landmark constitutional changes giving Pakistan a new political direction amid difficult and trying circumstances.

According to Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) observation, the Lower House held 48 sessions in the five years meeting for a total of 476 sittings – 100 in the first, 107 in the second, 109 in the third, 103 in the fourth and 57 sittings in the fifth parliamentary year so far.

In the five years, the National Assembly passed a total of 115 bills. Though the House passed only five bills in the first parliamentary year, the legislation picked up pace in the second, third and fourth parliamentary years. The Lower House passed 32, 31, 30 and 17 bills respectively. These included the historical 18th and 20th constitutional amendment bills ensuring greater provincial autonomy and giving Pakistan a consensus mechanism for transfer of power democratically.

Unlike the past assemblies where the legislation was almost completely dominated by the government-backed bills, the 13th National Assembly witnessed Private Member bills becoming laws.

A total of 176 Private Members bills were introduced in the National Assembly; out of which 10 became laws – one in the first, three in the second, one in the third, three in the fourth and two in the fifth parliamentary year.

Additionally the Assembly passed pro-women bills such as the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill 2009, the Criminal Law (Third Amendment) Bill 2010, the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2010, the Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Bill -- earlier tabled as the Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Bill 2010 -- and the Prevention of Anti-Women Practices Bill 2011.

Legislators asked 15,213 Questions during the five years – 3,483 in the first, 4,238 in the second, 3,127 in the third, 2,544 in the fourth and 1,821 in the fifth parliamentary year. The government provided replies to 12,090 Questions – 2,911 in the first, 3,477 in the second, 2,494 in the third, 1,918 in the fourth, and 1,290 in the fifth parliamentary year. In other words 3,123 Questions that made to the floor of the House remained unanswered.

Out of the 336 Resolutions presented in the House over the five years, 73 were adopted. The National Assembly adopted 15 resolutions each in the first and second parliamentary years out of the 70 and 57 presented in the House. Out of the 51 and 48 Resolutions presented in the House in the third and fourth parliamentary years, 13 and 8 were adopted. Twenty-three Resolutions were adopted during the fifth parliamentary year.

The legislators brought in matters of urgent public importance to the House through Calling Attention Notices - 108 in the first, 105 in the second, 114 in the third, 122 in the fourth, and 95 in the fifth parliamentary year.

The parliamentarians increasingly made use of Points of Order to express themselves on a host of issues in the House. Though in the first parliamentary year, the legislators raised 683 Points of Order, the use and number sharply increased in the second (957), third (1,228), and fourth (1,275) year. During the fifth parliamentary year, a total of 597 Points of Order were raised.

<i>Five Years at a Glance</i>					
Agenda Items	First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year	Fifth Year
Number of Sessions	11	9	9	11	8
Number of Sittings	100	107	109	103	57
Sitting time	Not available	242 hours and 43 minutes	348 hours and 43 minutes	292 hours and four minutes	113 hours and 24 minutes
Number of Treasury Bills Introduced	14	17	17	13	24
Number of Treasury Bills Passed	5	29	30	27	15
Number of Private Members' Bills Introduced	36	54	17	40	29
Number of Private Members' Bills Passed	1	3	1	3	2
Number of Questions on Agenda	3,483	4,238	3,127	2,544	1,821
Number of Questions Answered	2,911	3,477	2,494	1,918	1,290
Number of Resolutions Presented	67	64	79	77	79
Number of Resolutions Adopted	15	15	12	8	23
Number of Adjournment Motions Raised	6	10	8	5	0
Number of Calling Attention Notices on Agenda	108	105	114	122	95
Number of Points of Order	683	957	1,228	1,275	597

Parliamentary Outputs

Law making on matters of national significance through careful debate is the Parliament's most important function. Legislation comes in the form of Government Bills, Private-Member Bills and Ordinances.

The National Assembly passed a total of 115 bills during the 48 sessions (March 2008 to January 2013). Historically and traditionally the lawmaking has been dominated by the government. However in the 13th National Assembly, this trend has been reversed. Legislative activism was evident as 176 private members' bills were introduced. Out of them ten became laws. These included the bills such as the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill 2009, the Criminal Law (Third Amendment) Bill 2010, the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2010, the Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Bill -- earlier tabled as the Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Bill 2010 -- and the Prevention of Anti-Women Practices Bill 2011.

Top Ten Performers

To gauge the performance of the Members, FAFEN has only counted Private Members' Bills in this section of the report.

Yasmeen Rehman authored the most number of Private Members' Bills either in collaboration with her colleagues or in her individual capacity.

Sr. No.	Name of Members	Party	Constituency	Jointly	Individually	Total
1	Yasmeen Rehman	PPPP	Reserved for Women	21	8	29
2	Donya Aziz	PML	Reserved for Women	16	7	23
3	Marvi Memon	PML	Reserved for Women	9	8	17
4	Shakeela Khanam Rashid	PPPP	Reserved for Women	13	3	16
5	Naseer Bhutta	PMLN	NA-127 Lahore-X	4	10	14
	Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada	PML	NA-186 Bahawalpur-IV	12	2	14
6	Azra Fazal Pechuho	PPPP	NA-213 Nawabshah-I	11	2	13
	Hamayun Saifullah Khan	PML	NA-27 Lakki Marwat	11	2	13
7	Khuram Jehangir Wattoo	PPPP	NA-147 Okara-V	0	12	12
	Attiya Inayatullah	PML	Reserved for Women	7	5	12
8	Riaz Fatiana	PML	NA-94 T.T.Singh-III	0	11	11
	Nuzhat Sadiq	PMLN	Reserved for Women	10	1	11
	Tahira Aurangzeb	PMLN	Reserved for Women	11	0	11
	Nosheen Saeed	PML	Reserved for Women	5	6	11
9	Justice (R) Fakhar-un-Nisa Khokhar	PPPP	Reserved for Women	4	6	10
	Ch. Muhammad Barjees Tahir	PMLN	NA-135 Nankana Sahib-I (Old Sheikhpura-V)	10	0	10
	Sheikh Waqqas Akram	PML	NA-89 Jhang-IV	10	0	10
	Nighat Parveen Mir	PMLN	Reserved for Women	9	1	10
10	Kashmala Tariq	PML	Reserved for Women	2	7	9
	Shireen Arshad Khan	PMLN	Reserved for Women	1	8	9
	Tasneem Siddiqui	PMLN	Reserved for Women	3	6	9

Resolutions

Through Resolutions, the House expresses its opinion, make recommendations, or convey a message on a definite and important issue. Through Resolutions, the House can also commend, urge, or request action upon a situation under consideration by the Government. Resolutions may be moved by Ministers or Private Members.

The following table illustrates the top ten legislators who sponsored Resolutions either individually or in collaboration with their colleagues. Shireen Arshad Khan (PMLN) topped the list by authoring 35 resolutions – 27 individually and eight jointly.

Sr. No.	Name of Members	Party	Constituency	Jointly	Individually	Total
1	Shireen Arshad Khan	PMLN	Reserved Seat for Women	8	27	35
2	Nisar Tanveer	PMLN	Reserved Seat for Women	30	2	32
3	Rana Mahmood-ul-Hassan	PMLN	NA-150 Multan-III	28	2	30
4	Nighat Parveen Mir	PMLN	Reserved Seat for Women	12	11	23
5	Khalida Mansoor	PMLN	Reserved Seat for Women	5	18	23
6	Yasmeen Rehman	PPPP	Reserved Seat for Women	15	5	20
7	Tasneem Siddiqui	PMLN	Reserved Seat for Women	9	10	19
8	Tahira Aurangzeb	PMLN	Reserved Seat for Women	4	11	15
9	Belum Hasnain	PPPP	Reserved Seat for Women	6	8	14
	Shaheen Ishfaq	PMLN	Reserved Seat for Women	4	10	14
10	Raja Muhammad Asad Khan	PMLN	NA-63 Jhelum-II	13	0	13
	Nuzhat Sadiq	PMLN	Reserved Seat for Women	5	8	13

Parliamentary Oversight over the Executive

The oversight of the executive is among the core functions of the Parliament (besides law making) through which it asserts itself as a representative body. Such oversight is necessary for the accountability of the executive's actions and ensuring the implementation of policies and decisions made on the floor of the House. It is carried out through Questions and Calling Attention Notices, under rules 69 and 88 respectively of the rules of procedure.

Question Hour

Nisar Tanveer of the PMLN topped the Question Hour list. She asked 535 questions – 322 starred (requiring oral replies) and 213 unstarred (requiring written replies) during 48 sessions. She was followed by another PMLN member – Shireen Arshad Khan who sponsored 527 questions. Nine out of ten parliamentarians in the top-ten list belonged to PMLN while one member – Belum Husnain – is affiliated with the PPPP. All except Rana Mahmood-ul-Hassan are elected on reserved seats for women.

Sr. No.	Name of Members	Party	Constituency	Questions
1	Nisar Tanveer	PMLN	Reserved Seat for Women	535
2	Shireen Arshad Khan	PMLN	Reserved Seat for Women	527
3	Khalida Mansoor	PMLN	Reserved Seat for Women	451
4	Tahira Aurangzeb	PMLN	Reserved Seat for Women	447
5	Rana Mahmood-ul-Hassan	PMLN	NA-150 Multan-III	445
6	Tasneem Siddiqui	PMLN	Reserved Seat for Women	439
7	Shaheen Ishfaq	PMLN	Reserved Seat for Women	396
8	Nuzhat Sadiq	PMLN	Reserved Seat for Women	380
9	Nighat Parveen Mir	PMLN	Reserved Seat for Women	375
10	Belum Hasnain	PPPP	Reserved Seat for Women	345

Calling Attention Notices

Legislators use Calling Attention Notices for drawing the House's attention to a matter of public interest. According to rule 88 of the Rules and Procedures of the National Assembly, a Calling Attention Notice draws the attention of a Minister towards any matter of urgent public importance. Through this notice, any Member can request a Minister to pay attention to a particular matter of national importance and take necessary steps. No Member can give more than one notice for any sitting. Further, not more than two such matters can be raised at the same sitting.

On the appointed day, with the Chair's permission, the Member presents the matter before the House to which the relevant Minister gives answer in the shape of a brief statement or asks for time to make a statement at a later hour or date.

Calling Attention Notices are often raised jointly by more than one Member of the House. Yasmeen Rehman (PPPP) topped the list by sponsoring 114 CANs, followed by Nisar Tanveer (PMLN) 101. In the top-ten members submitting CANs, five belonged to the PPPP.

Sr. No.	Name of Members	Party	Constituency	CANs Raised
1	Yasmeen Rehman	PPPP	Reserved Seat for Women	114
2	Nisar Tanveer	PMLN	Reserved Seat for Women	101
3	Nawab Abdul Ghani Talpur	PPPP	NA-231 Dadu-I	88
4	Raja Muhammad Asad Khan	PMLN	NA-63 Jhelum-II	81
5	Azra Fazal Pechuho	PPPP	NA-213 Nawabshah-I	74
6	Ch. Muhammad Barjees Tahir	PMLN	NA-135 Nankana Sahib-I (Old Sheikhpura-V)	69
7	Shamshad Sattar Bachani	PPPP	NA-223 Hyderabad-VI	65
8	Nighat Parveen Mir	PMLN	Reserved Seat for Women	55
9	Shireen Arshad Khan	PMLN	Reserved Seat for Women	54
10	Shakeela Khanam Rashid	PPPP	Reserved Seat for Women	53

Representation and Responsiveness

Parliament's responsiveness means Members' collective actions on the issues of public interests that are raised and discussed on the floor of the House.

Matters of Public Importance

Before taking up last Calling Attention Notice, the Speaker may allot last half an hour of a sitting on Private Members' Day for raising discussion on a matter of urgent public importance, including matters which have been the subject of a recent question.

Nisar Tanveer (PMLN) raised the most number of Matters of Public Importance. She submitted 30, followed by Rana Mahmood-ul-Hassan –29 – and Begum Nuzhat Sadiq – 28.

Sr. No.	Name of Members	Party	Constituency	Total
1	Nisar Tanveer	PMLN	Reserved for Women	30
2	Rana Mahmood-ul-Hassan	PMLN	NA-150 Multan-III	29
3	Begum Nuzhat Sadiq	PMLN	Reserved for Women	28
4	Tahira Aurangzeb	PMLN	Reserved for Women	26
5	Muhammad Hanif Abbasi	PMLN	NA-56 Rawalpindi-VII	25
6	Shireen Arshad Khan	PMLN	Reserved for Women	24
7	Yasmeen Rehman	PPPP	Reserved for Women	19
8	Muhammad Afzal Khokhar	PMLN	NA-128 Lahore-XI	18
9	Mian Marghoob Ahmad	PMLN	NA-121 Lahore-IV	16
10	Nighat Parveen Mir	PMLN	Reserved for Women	16
11	Muhammad Riaz Malik	PMLN	NA-118 Lahore-I	16
12	Abdul Qadir Patel	PPPP	NA-239 Karachi-I	15

Motions under Rule 259

Under Rule 259, any Minister or Member may give a Motion that any policy, situation, statement or any other matter maybe taken into consideration. No question is allowed at the conclusion of the debate unless any Minister or a Member, with the consent of the Chair, moves a substantive Motion immediately after, in appropriate terms, in which case a question can be put.

Motions under Rule 259 are raised jointly by more than one Member of the House. During the 48 sessions, the following table shows the top ten parliamentarians either in collaboration or in their individual capacity put forth Motions. Khalida Mansoor, PMLN, topped the list by submitting the most Motions under Rule 259. Again nine out of 10 legislators moving Motions under Rule 259 belonged to PMLN.

Sr. No.	Name of Members	Party	Constituency	Jointly	Individually	Total
1	Khalida Mansoor	PMLN	Reserved for Women	5	26	31
2	Tasneem Siddiqui	PMLN	Reserved for Women	14	8	22
3	Rana Mahmood-ul-Hassan	PMLN	NA-150 Multan-III	18	3	21
4	Nisar Tanveer	PMLN	Reserved for Women	20	1	21
5	Begum Nuzhat Sadiq	PMLN	Reserved for Women	5	16	21
6	Shireen Arshad Khan	PMLN	Reserved for Women	6	14	20
7	Shaheen Ishfaq	PMLN	Reserved for Women	7	8	15
8	Yasmeen Rehman	PPPP	Reserved for Women	12	2	14
9	Nighat Parveen Mir	PMLN	Reserved for Women	4	10	14
10	Qudsia Arshad	PMLN	Reserved for Women	9	3	12
	Mian Marghoob Ahmad	PMLN	NA-121 Lahore-IV	3	9	12

Order and Institutionalization

This section deals with Order and Institutionalization of Members which is important for an efficient and productive Parliament.

Points Of Order

A Member can raise a Point of Order only to point out any violation of the Rules and Procedure of the House, or to seek enforcement of certain rules required to regulate the business. The Chair is required to give a ruling on these issues. However, Members instead

raised issues of their constituencies, other national matters or personal privileges despite the fact that the regulatory framework does not allow them to raise these matters through Points of Order. On the other hand, it is possible that this very lack of adequate space in the regulatory framework compelled the Members to raise constituency related issues through Points of Order.

The Leader of the Opposition, Ch. Nisar Ali Khan, topped the list of Points of Order by raising 287, followed by the Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Syed Khurshid Shah.

Sr. No.	Name of Members	Party	Constituency	Points of Order
1	Ch. Nisar Ali Khan	PMLN	NA-53 Rawalpindi-IV	287
2	Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah	PPPP	NA-199 Sukkur-II	229
3	Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada	PML	NA-186 Bahawalpur-IV	135
4	Eng. Amir Muqam	PML	NA-31 Shanglapar	108
5	Marvi Memon	PML	Reserved for Women	102
6	Faisal Karim Kundi	PPPP	NA-24 D.I.Khan	93
7	Bushra Gohar	ANP	Reserved for Women	82
8	Ahsan Iqbal	PMLN	NA-117 Narowal-III	81
9	Nawab Muhammad Yousuf Talpur	PPPP	NA-228 Mirpurkhas-III	78
10	Syed Asif Hasnain	MQM	NA-255 Karachi-XVII	74

About FAFEN

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

- Observed the public display of Pakistan's 2007 draft electoral rolls and conducted the country's first statistically-valid voters' list audit
- Deployed 18,829 trained, neutral Election Day observers nationwide to monitor the February 18, 2008, General Elections
- Fielded 264 long-term observers nationwide and published 19 pre-election reports
- Conducted 260 simultaneous Parallel Vote Tabulations (PVTs)- the largest PVT effort in the world
- Conducted a Constituent Aspirations Survey in December 2008 with 3,124 respondents regarding attitudes and beliefs of people living in the constituencies
- Observed Gilgit-Baltistan 2009 General Elections and 2010-2012 By-Elections in various constituencies of the Punjab, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- Implements a unique methodology to observe and report on legislative proceedings and performance under a Parliament Watch Project
- Monitors public institutions across Pakistan and issues monthly reports on the state and performance of educational, health and other local institutions as well as reports on prices, crimes, incidence of disease, caseload in lower courts, and political and electoral violence

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



FAFEN Secretariat

169-A, Street 20, F-11/ 2, Islamabad

+92 51 8466121-2

+92 51 8466123

(E) secretariat@fafen.org, (Twitter) @_FAFEN