



# FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

SIXTH SESSION

November 04-12, 2013

National Assembly of Pakistan



Free and Fair Election Network  
[www.fafen.org](http://www.fafen.org)

## ABBREVIATIONS

AJIP	Awami Jamhoori Ittehad Pakistan
ANP	Awami National Party
APML	All Pakistan Muslim League
AMLP	Awami Muslim League Pakistan
BNP	Balochistan National Party
IND	Independent Member
JI	Jamaat-e-Islami
JUI-F	Jamiat-e-Ulema-Islam - Fazlur Rehman
MQM	Muttahida Qaumi Movement
NP	National Party
NPP	National People's Party
PkMAP	Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
PML-F	Pakistan Muslim League (Functional)
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)
PML-Z	Pakistan Muslim League (Zia-ul-Haq Shaheed)
PPPP	Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
QWP-S	Qaumi Watan Party - Sherpao



This report is based on direct observation of National Assembly proceedings conducted by CPDI-Pakistan, a member organization of FAFEN.

## Executive Summary

Low interest of the members in participation and addressing agenda items was observed in the sixth session of the National Assembly, says Free and Fair Election Network in its session report based on the direct observation of the proceedings of the Lower House.

The sixth session of the National Assembly continued the trend of fifth session of leaving more than half of the agenda unaddressed, low attendance of members, absence of Prime Minister and no passage of legislation.

During the sixth session, 61% of the agenda items on the Orders of the Day were left unaddressed and only 34% of the lawmakers took part in submitting and debating agenda or both. The House did not take up one matter of public importance, seven pieces of legislation, five motions under Rule 259, three resolutions and two calling attention notices. More than half of the session's time (58%) was consumed in debating the motion under Rule 259 on recent drone attacks in North Waziristan Agency.

Members' attendance remained low as on average 66 members were counted at the commencement and 77 at the adjournment of sitting. Half of the minority members (five) attended the session on average.

Although quorum was found lacking at many stages in the session, it was pointed out once by a PPP member. However, on the headcount of members, quorum was found complete and the proceedings continued without hindrance.

The repeating trend of the Prime Minister's absence from the House continued. The House also witnessed a walkout by the opposition, except the MQM, over the absence of the Prime Minister. The Leader of the Opposition remained present for 75% of the total session time. The Speaker remained in the chair for 67% of the total session time whereas the Deputy Speaker presided over 26% of the proceedings.

Spanning from November 4 to 12, 2013, the seven-sitting session witnessed an average delay of 49 minutes in commencement of proceedings. The House remained in session for 20 hours and 17 minutes and took three prayer breaks consuming an hour and 20 minutes.

Three resolutions, including two seeking postponement of local government elections, were adopted in the House. The resolutions on the local government (LG) demanded of the "Election Commission of Pakistan to fix a practical date after ensuring that all legal and administrative arrangements are in place in the entire country for free and fair elections."

Just like the previous session, the House did not pass a single bill during the entire session and the number of introduced bills – both government and private – was also decreased compared to the last session. Five bills – two government and three private members – were introduced and sent to the relevant standing committees for further consideration.

Three ordinances on counter terrorism and conferring more powers on investigative agencies were laid before the House. These were the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 (No. 7 of 2013), the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 (No. 8 of 2013) and the Protection of Pakistan Ordinance (No. 9 of 2013).

The session's fifth sitting was marked by two walkouts staged by the opposition parties, excluding the MQM. The opposition members walked out of the House twice for 41 and 13 minutes, respectively, to protest against the ministerial absence, especially the Prime Minister.

FAFEN hopes this report will be a valuable contribution to creating both a more informed citizenry and an increasingly responsible Parliament. On the basis of its ongoing observation, FAFEN recommends:

1. National Assembly sittings should be open to citizen observers who apply for accreditation through a standardized process. FAFEN takes this opportunity to reiterate its request for permanent accreditation for observation of all assembly's proceedings.
2. The Secretariat should share records of actual time spent by the members in the assembly chamber. FAFEN has made repeated attempts to get the attendance document of the members but to no avail.
3. No vote should be allowed, especially on legislation, without a quorum. The issue of lack of quorum has persisted for a long time. As observed during the fifth session, members' attendance varies during a sitting, low at the beginning and the adjournment of the proceedings, leading to a lack of quorum. The Chair should ensure that quorum is maintained throughout the proceedings.

4. All ministers (or a designated representative of each ministry and the cabinet) must be required to be present during Question Hour at each relevant sitting. All questions must be responded to within a stipulated timeframe. Transcripts of all questions – including the ones that the Secretariat finds inadmissible – and responses should be made available to the members and to the public. Out of 174 questions on the agenda during the sixth session, 32 did not receive answers.
5. The National Assembly Secretariat should design a more achievable agenda for the Orders of the Day for both government and private members' days. It was observed during this session that 61% of the agenda items on the Orders of the Day were left unaddressed.
6. The exercise of using Points of Order – a tool primarily used to highlight a breach in assembly rules – to bring national, regional and local issues in the plenary should be curbed. Such issues should be raised through a motion to raise a “no point of order” as provided by Rule 18 of the National Assembly's rules of procedure. On a positive note, the said motion was on the agenda of all but second and fifth sittings of the session.
7. Since several parliamentarians have been elected for the first time in the 14th National Assembly, they should be given proper orientation and training regarding their fundamental responsibilities, especially to their constituents as well as basic parliamentary procedures.
8. Although it is appreciated that women and minorities have a quota in the House, nevertheless, to make their appointment more representative and transparent they should be elected by the public. Currently, a political party has the discretion to nominate members on proportionately allocated reserved seats.

## 1.0 Session Duration, Attendance and Participation

This section documents session's duration, delays, participation and attendance of the members –including Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Speaker and the Deputy Speaker. It also details the attendance of lawmakers representing minorities in the House.

### 1.1 Session Time

The Lower House met for 20 hours and 17 minutes from November 4 to 12, 2013 for the sixth session. On average, each sitting assembled for two hours and 54 minutes with a delay of 49 minutes. Of the seven sittings, the third sitting was the longest when the House remained in session for four hours and 29 minutes while the first sitting was the shortest which convened for an hour and three minutes. Three prayer breaks of one hour and 20 minutes (7%) were observed in the session.

**Table 1.1: Time and Duration**

Sr. No.	Day and Date	Sitting No.	Late Starts (Minutes)	Hours	Minutes
1.	Monday, November 4, 2013	1st	147	1	3
2.	Tuesday, November 5, 2013	2nd	20	3	12
3.	Wednesday, November 6, 2013	3rd	10	4	29
4.	Thursday, November 7, 2013	4th	17	3	58
5.	Friday, November 8, 2013	5th	15	1	35
6.	Monday, November 11, 2013	6th	105	2	23
7.	Tuesday, November 12, 2013	7th	28	3	37
<b>Total</b>			<b>Average 49 Minutes</b>	<b>20 Hours and 17 Minutes</b>	

### 1.2 Members' Attendance

The members' attendance remained low during the session as 66 MNAs (19%), on average, were present at the outset, 77 MNAs (23%) at the adjournment and 143 maximum members (42%) at a time during the proceedings. On average, five of the 10 minority members attended each sitting.

Although quorum (1/4 of the total members) was found lacking at various points during the session, it was pointed out once in the second sitting. A PPPP male member pointed out the lack of quorum, which was found complete after count.

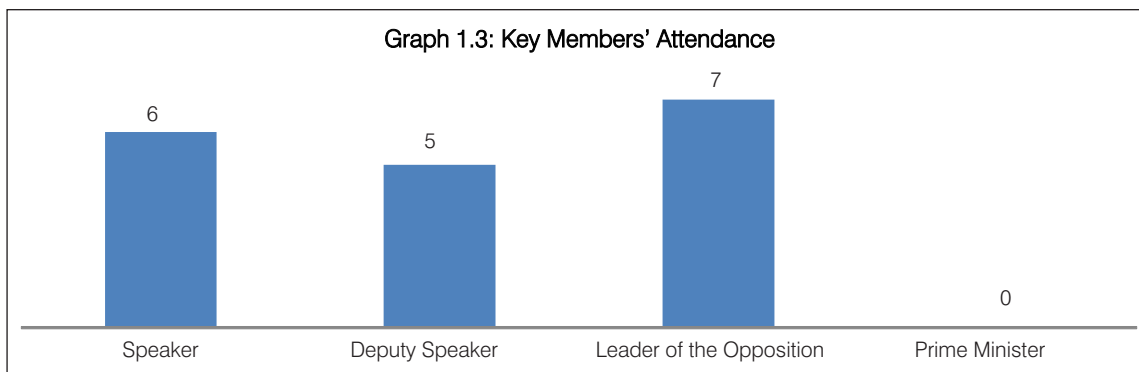
Table 1.2: Members' Attendance

Sitting No.	Members at the Outset	Members at the End	Maximum Members	Minority Members
1st	158	216	226	6
2nd	75	60	152	5
3rd	47	67	165	5
4th	34	78	144	5
5th	37	65	116	6
6th	69	32	127	4
7th	39	20	72	4
<b>Average</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>5</b>

### 1.3 Key Members' Attendance

Attendance of the key leaders in the Lower House of Parliament makes an impact of seriousness of the elected representatives to take on their duties. Just like previous two sessions, the Prime Minister did not attend the entire sixth session as well whereas the Leader of the Opposition attended all seven sittings, remaining there for 75% of the total session's time.

The Speaker chaired 67% of the session time by attending six sittings. The Deputy Speaker was present in five sittings and presided over 26% of the session time. Seven per cent of the session time was consumed in three prayer breaks taken during the session.



### 1.4 Members' Participation

FAFEN observes members' participation against three categories – legislators who only submit agenda, those who only participate in the on-floor debates and the members who take part in the proceedings by submitting agenda and speaking on the floor.

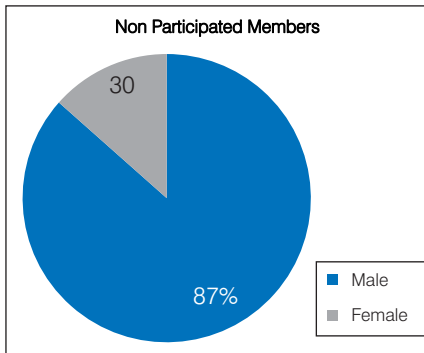
As many as 117 members (34%) in the 340-member House took part in the proceedings during the sixth session. Among them, 18% (60 lawmakers) participated in the proceedings by only submitting agenda items and nine per cent (29 legislators) by participating in debates. Only eight per cent (28 lawmakers) took part in debates along with submitting agenda items.

Of all the parties, the MQM members remained most active in terms of participation as 16 (67%) of their total 24 members participated by submitting agenda, taking part in debates or doing both. The MQM was followed by the PTI with 63%, the JUI-F (50%), the PPPP (40%), Independents (38%), the PML-N (22%) and the PML-F (20%). Among the single member parties, the members of the AMLP, the APML and the PML-Z submitted the agenda items along with participation in debates. Three of the four lawmakers of the JI participated in the session by submitting agenda items and taking part in debates. Half of the lawmakers of the ANP, the PML and the PkMAP took part in the proceedings.

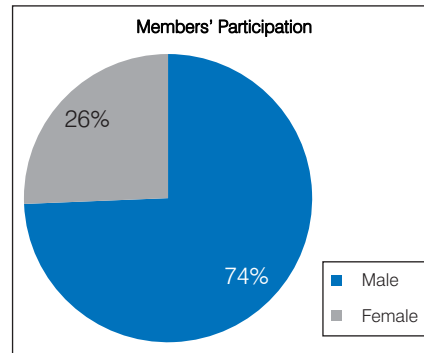
The members belonging to the NPP, AJIP, BNP, NP and QWP-S did not participate at all during the entire session.

It was observed that female members' participation was more than their male counterparts as 50% of the women members took part in the proceedings whereas 31% of the male members participated in the proceedings.

Graph 1.4 A: Participation Based on Gender



Graph 1.4 B: Non-Participation Based on Gender

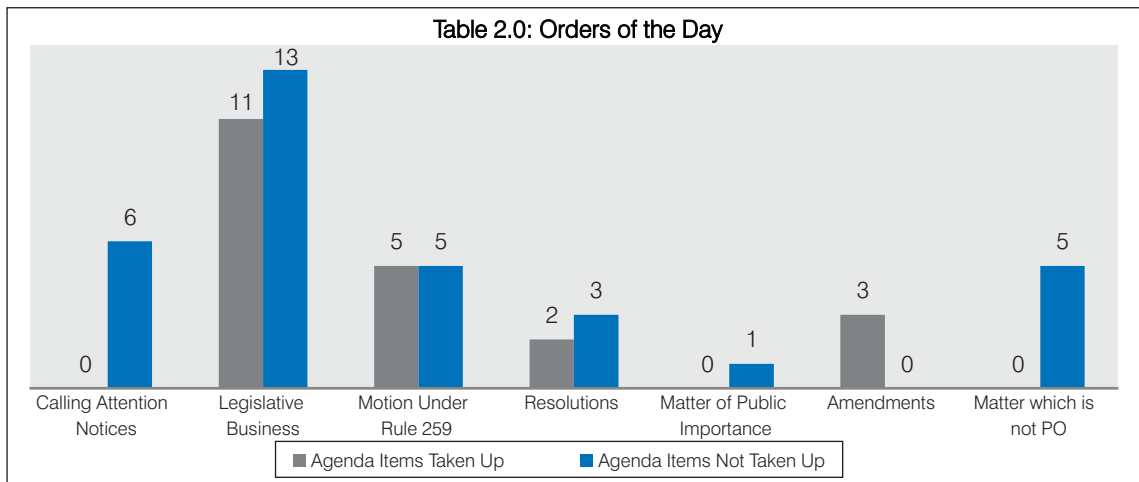


## 2.0 Orders of the Day

The Orders of the Day is a list of agenda items for a sitting prepared by the secretary of the National Assembly. As per FAFEN's methodology, calling attention notices, legislation, resolutions, adjournment motions and other motions (under rule 259 etc.), matters of public importance and amendments to the rules and procedures are counted as the total number of agenda items during the session.

The House did not take up 61 per cent of the total agenda items that appeared on the list of business of National Assembly during the session. Among all the 54 agenda items, more than half (38) appeared on the list of business on two private member's day. As agenda appears heavily on the private members day, it remains impossible to take up all the items on that particular day. The House left 24 of the 38 items appearing on the Orders of the Day of two private member's sittings.

Overall, the House took 11 bills, five motions under Rule 259, two resolutions and three amendments. None of the calling attention notices appearing on the agenda were taken up. Similarly, the House left one matter of public importance, 13 pieces of legislations, five motions under Rule 259, three resolutions and five matters which were not points of order.



## 3.0 Parliamentary Output

Parliamentary output is primarily the legislation passed, the resolutions adopted and the standing committee reports laid during a session. Legislation appears in the form of government and private members' bills and ordinances.

### 3.1 Government Bills

Two government bills were introduced in the fifth and sixth sitting and sent to relevant committees. The Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill, 2013 seeks to remove the contradiction related to qualification for appointment of a member of commission in the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan Ordinance, 1979. The qualification mentioned in the sub-section (2) of section 3 in the ordinance is in conflict

with the qualification of a member mentioned in clause (g) of sub-section (1) of section 3. The proposed amendment in the bill omits the qualification for the appointment of member mentioned in clause (g) of sub-section (1) of section 3 and places the qualification mentioned in sub-section (2) of the section 3 after substitution by repealing the sub-section (2) of the section 3 of the ordinance.

The Federal Employees Benevolent Fund and Group Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2013 seeks amendment to section 4 (1)(c) of the Federal Employees Benevolent Fund and Group Insurance, 1969 which states the appointment of one of the five members of the Board of Trustees from the Labour and Local Bodies Divisions. As the Labour and Manpower Division has been devolved, there is a need to amend the said section. The said bill will amend the section 4(1)(c) of the 1969 Act for the composition of Board of Trustees.

### 3.1: Government Bills

Sitting	Legislation	Date of Introduction
5th	The Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill, 2013	November 8, 2013
6th	The Federal Employees Benevolent Fund and Group Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2013	November 11, 2013

### 3.2 Private Members' Bills

In the last sitting of the session, three private member's bills were introduced in the House and all of them were referred to the relevant committees. The bills relate to seeking parliament's review before ratifying any international treaty, amends the Pakistan Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 to register an FIR at police stations and arranging the financial cost of medical treatment for poor and needy patients.

### 3.2: Private Members' Bills

Sitting	Legislation	Date of Introduction
7th	The Ratification of International Treaties Bill, 2013	November 12, 2013
	The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2013	
	The Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (Amendment) Bill, 2013	

### 3.3 Ordinances

In the fourth sitting, the government laid three ordinances before the House. All of them were related to counter terrorism and conferring powers on investigation agencies. The Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 (No. 7) confers powers of investigation to Rangers, giving legal protection to Joint Investigation Teams (JIT), allowing police to become accuser in extortion cases and providing special protection to witnesses.

The Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 (No. 8) targets the terrorism financing by addressing the shortcomings in the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997.

The Protection of Pakistan Ordinance, 2013 emphasises establishment of the writ of the state at any cost. This involves raising the minimum punishment under Part V of the Constitution for terrorist or criminal acts to 10 years imprisonment. The ordinance seeks that incidents of terrorism would be jointly investigated by security organisations and the law enforcement agencies and terrorists will be treated as enemies of the state. Furthermore, it aims at establishing designated jails for hardened and dangerous criminals (and terrorists), preventive detention for 90 days, search of premises without warrants and denial of bail to arrested suspects.

Table 3.3: Ordinances

Sitting	Ordinance	Date of Presentation
4th	The Anti-terrorism (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 (No. 7 of 2013)	November 7, 2013
	The Anti-terrorism (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 (No. 8 of 2013)	
	The Protection of Pakistan Ordinance, 2013 (No. 9 of 2013)	

### 3.4 Resolutions

Through resolutions, a legislature expresses an opinion, makes recommendations, or conveys a message on a specific and important issue. The House can also commend, condemn, urge or request action by the government. Resolutions can be moved by ministers or members in their private capacity.

The members tabled seven resolutions in the Assembly during the sixth session. The House unanimously adopted three resolutions and left same number unaddressed. Only one resolution was debated in the House.

The National Assembly passed two supplementary resolutions seeking postponement of local government elections. Jointly moved by the lawmakers from the PPPP, PTI, PML-N, PkMAP, PML-Z, PML and MQM, the resolution first brought in the House in the fourth sitting through supplementary agenda. Then In the seventh sitting, another resolution on the same subject was brought in the House by the members belonging to the PPPP, PTI, PML-N, PkMAP, MQM, JI and JUI-F. Both times, it was adopted unanimously.

Tabled by a PPPP member, the House adopted a resolution demanding of the government to take steps to ensure that Pakistan Bureau of Statistics functions as an autonomous body. Another resolution by a PTI member urging the government to take steps to alleviate poverty from the country was debated in the House. Leader of the Opposition and an independent member took part in the debate.

Three resolutions about recruitment in National Saving Centers, economic reforms in the country and establishing industrial estate in Chicha Watni, District Sahiwal, were left un-addressed.

**Table 3.4: Resolutions**

Sr. No.	Resolutions	Party	Status
1.	This House believes that the recently announced schedule by the Election Commission of Pakistan for the local government elections in the country is practically difficult to deliver free and fair election. The House resolves that conducting the LG elections in haste will cast a doubt on the credibility and transparency of not only on the process but also results. The Election Commission of Pakistan must ensure that proper procedures are followed and minimum required time must be allotted for free, fair and transparent LG elections. The printing of ballot papers as defined by the law can only be carried out by the Printing Press of Pakistan which has shown its inability to print the ballots in the given election schedule. The printing of ballot papers by any private printing press may not be acceptable as it would make the transparency of election process questionable. The sovereign political will of this House must prevail in a democratic process of elections which has to be transparent and free and fair	PPPP PML-N PkMAP PTI PML-Z PML MQM	Adopted Unanimously
2.	This House is fully conscious of the imperative to hold local government elections throughout the country in accordance with the Constitution of Pakistan. The House demands that the Election Commission of Pakistan carries out its functions as stated in Article 140A(2) of the Constitution and hold these elections in a fair, free and transparent manner as soon as possible. This House reiterates that elections carried out in haste will violate the above article and demands that the Election Commission of Pakistan should fix a practical date after ensuring that all legal and administrative arrangements are in place in the entire country	PPPP PML-N PkMAP PTI MQM JI JUI-F	Adopted Unanimously
3.	This House is of the opinion that the government should take steps to ensure that the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics functions as an autonomous body	PPPP	Adopted
4.	This House is of the opinion that the government should take steps to alleviate poverty from the country	PTI	Debated by the House
5.	This House is of the opinion that the government should take immediate steps to establish industrial estate in Chicha Watni, District Sahiwal	PTI	Not Taken Up
6.	This House is of the opinion that the government should take immediate steps for economic reforms in the country	PTI	Not Taken Up
7.	This House is of the opinion that the government should take steps to make further recruitment for better performance of National Saving Centers	PPPP	Not Taken Up

## 4.0 Representation, Responsiveness and Government Oversight

This section reviews the legislators' representative and oversight role in the House as it covers the question hour, calling attention notices, adjournment motions, and motions under Rule 259 etc.

### 4.1 Question Hour

During the sixth session, Question Hour was held in two sittings only. There were 174 questions – 75 starred and 99 un-starred – on the agenda and out of them, 139 were fully answered while 32 received no response. Three of the questions were sent to the divisions of Housing and Works, Commerce and Cabinet to get replies. None of the starred questions on the agenda was taken up on the floor of the House.



As the PML-N is in simple majority in the Lower House of the Parliament, most of its members participated in submitting questions. A total of 76 lawmakers – male (47), female (29) – submitted questions. The PML-N members submitted 42 questions, followed by the PTI (39), PPPP (38), MQM (32), JI (11) and JUI-F (six), AMLP (three), APML (two) and PkMAP submitted one question.

**Table 4.1: Starred and Un-Starred Questions**

Sitting. No.	Starred Questions	Un-Starred Questions	Taken Up	Not Taken Up	Supplementary Questions
1st	34	50	0	34	0
2nd	Private Members Day				
3rd	41	49	0	41	0
4th	Question Hour not held				
5th					
6th					
7th	Private Members Day				
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>

Most of the questions submitted by the members were related to the Cabinet Secretariat. The questions appearing on the agenda were directed to the ministries and divisions of Cabinet Secretariat (63), Water and Power (31), Housing and Works (21), Education, Trainings and Standards in Higher Education, Industries and Production, Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage (10 each), National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (eight), Information Technology and Telecommunications (seven), Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony (six), Railways (four), National Food Security (three) and Ports and Shipping (one).

## 4.2 Calling Attention Notices

According to the National Assembly's Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, "a member may with the previous permission of the Chair call the attention of a minister to any matter of urgent public importance and the minister may make a brief statement or ask for time to make a statement during the same or next sitting, provided that no member shall give more than two such notices for any one sitting."

Only two calling attention notices by the lawmakers of the PTI and APML were tabled in the assembly during the session and both of them were not taken up. These notices were about the failure of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to recover taxes from three million people and the plan for tapping the run of river projects on river Chitral.

## 4.3 Motions under Rule 259

Under Rule 259 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the National Assembly, "any minister or member may give notice of a motion that any policy, situation, statement of any other matter may be taken into consideration."

The members belonging to the PML-N, JI, MQM, PTI and PPPP submitted six motions under Rule 259 during the sixth session. Only one motion on the issue of recent drone attacks in North Waziristan Agency, moved by the PML-N members, was taken up and debated in the House.

As moved in the first sitting, the motion on drone attacks was debated by the parliamentarians in the entire session, excluding the last sitting. As many as 39 lawmakers belonging to various parties shared their views on the subject. There were 11 members from the PML-N who participated in the debate followed by the PPPP and PTI (five members each), MQM and JUI-F (four members each), independent and JI (three members each) and one each from AMLP, ANP, PkMAP and PML-Z. The debate consumed more than half (58%) of the session's total time. Among 39 members, four were female parliamentarians.

**Table 4.3: Motion under Rule 259**

Sr. No.	Motion	Party	Status
1	This House may discuss the recent drone attacks in North Waziristan Agency	PML-N	Debated by the House
2	This House may discuss the law and order situation in the country	JI	Not Taken Up
3	This House may discuss the situation arising out of the sale of sub-standard eatables at Utility Stores	MQM	Not Taken Up
4	This House may discuss the law and order situation in the country	PTI	Not Taken Up
5	This House may discuss malnutrition of women and children in the country	PPPP	Not Taken Up
6	This House may discuss the situation arising out of devaluation of Pakistan rupee	PTI	Not Taken Up

#### 4.4 Question of Privilege

A member may, with the permission of the Speaker, raise a question of privilege involving a breach of the rights or privileges of a member, committee or the assembly.

In the fourth sitting, a PML-N lawmaker submitted two privilege motions. The motions were against the Deputy GPO Faisalabad for misbehaving and IG Punjab implicating the member in a false case.

#### 4.5 Matter of Public Importance

The National Assembly allows members to raise matters of immediate public importance. According to the rules, no discussion is allowed on such a motion. The mover states the matter and the relevant minister gives a reply.

One such matter appeared on the agenda but it was not taken up. A PTI lawmaker wanted the government's response on the issue about the failure of the Federal Board of Revenue to achieve the targets set for the collection of taxes for the year 2012-13.

#### 4.6 Rules of Procedure of National Assembly

In the seventh sitting, parliamentarians of the MQM jointly moved an amendment in Rule 169 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly 2007. It was referred to the Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure. The amendment in the sub-rule (2) of Rule 169 will bind the concerned division to present its report on the action taken on a passed resolution in two months by reducing the time limit from six months.

The amendment also adds two new sub rules after the sub-rule (2) related to action taken after the division fails to present its report within the timeframe of two months and the nature of report (preliminary or final).

### 5.0 Order and Institutionalisation

This section deals with order and institutionalisation which is important for an efficient and productive legislature. It includes Points of Order (POs) and the time consumed in discussing them. It also narrates the instances of protests, walkouts and boycotts.

#### 5.1 Points of Order

A Point of Order exclusively relates to the interpretation or enforcement of the rules of procedure. However, the members while speaking on POs mostly discuss national, regional and local issues.

The parliamentarians spent slightly more than one-fourth of the session's time (26%) raising national and regional issues through POs. They raised 69 issues through 59 Points of Order during the session. Most of the issues were related to discipline of the House, elections, opposition's boycott and drone attacks. The absence of ministers – including the Prime Minister – was also raised in the House through the POs.

During the session, the National Assembly made use of the time reserved for the legislators to speak on issues which were not POs under Rule 18 of its rules of procedure. The purpose is to provide for lawmakers an opportunity to highlight issues other than POs in line with the assembly's rules.

Table 5.1: Issues Raised on Points of Order

Issues	Number of Issues
Discipline of the House	18
Elections	17
Opposition Boycott	9
Drone Attacks	5
Criticism of Colleague	3
Criticism on Ministerial Absence	3
Karachi related Affairs	2
Business of the House	1
Criticism of Government	1
Criticism of Dictatorship	1
Development Scheme	1
Inflation	1
Karachi related affairs (Sectarianism)	1
Miscellaneous	1
Power	1
Praise of government	1
Statement by JI Leader	1
Statement on Jihad	1
Terrorism	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>

## GLOSSARY

### **Adjournment Motion**

A motion to adjourn the business of the assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of recent and urgent public importance.

### **Chairperson**

In relation to a sitting, any person who is presiding at that sitting.

### **Calling Attention Notice**

A notice by which a special question of public importance involving law and order may be raised.

### **Chair**

The presiding officer at a meeting of the House.

### **Committee**

A parliamentary committee constituted under rules of procedure, comprising various members of Parliament.

### **Deputy Speaker**

When the office of Speaker is vacant or Speaker is absent or is unable to perform his functions due to any cause, the Deputy Speaker acts as the Speaker of the House.

### **Leader of the Opposition**

"Leader of the Opposition" means a member who, in the opinion of the Speaker, is the leader of the majority of opposition members for a certain time period.

### **Legislation**

The process of drafting law.

### **Member**

A member of the assembly and for purposes of moving or opposing a bill, an amendment, a motion or a resolution, includes a minister.

### **Minister**

May refer to the Prime Minister, a Federal Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary in respect to any function delegated or entrusted to him by a minister.

### **Opposition**

The party or parties which do not belong to the governing side.

### **'Orders of the Day'**

"Orders of the Day" means the list of business to be brought before the assembly on any day.

### **Point of Order**

Relates to the interpretation or enforcement of parliamentary rules of business or articles of the constitution that regulate the business of the assembly. The mover of a point of order raises a question which is within the cognizance of the Chair.

**Private Member's Bill**

A proposed law introduced by a private member.

**Proceedings**

The actions taken by the House or a committee, the most important parts of the proceedings are the decisions that are taken.

**Quorum**

Quorum is the minimum number of members of assembly necessary to conduct the business of the assembly. Under Article 55 of the Constitution, 1/4th of the total membership of the assembly is required for quorum.

**Question Hour**

A time fixed under the rules for asking and answering questions.

**Resolution**

A motion for the purpose of discussing and expressing an opinion on a matter of general public interest.

**Starred Question**

A question that requires an oral answer in addition to a written reply.

**Sitting**

A meeting of the assembly on a day.

**Table**

The table of the House.

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# About FAFEN

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

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

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

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

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