

A Comparative Report
on
BUDGET SESSIONS
of the Provincial Assemblies

Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh



FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

August 2015



Free and Fair Election Network

www.fafen.org

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List of Abbreviations

NP	National Party
NPP	National Peoples Party
ANP	Awami National Party
BNP-A	Balochistan National Party-Awami
BNP-M	Balochistan National Party-Mengal
JUI-F	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazlur Rahman)
MQM	Muttahida Qaumi Movement
MWM	Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
PML-F	Pakistan Muslim League (Functional)
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)
PPPP	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
JI	Jamaat-e-Islami
PML-Z	Pakistan Muslim League (Zia)
PNML	Pakistan National Muslim League
CAN	Calling Attention Notice
PO	Point of Order

Executive Summary

The annual budgets for the Fiscal Year 2015-16 were approved in all provincial legislatures amid protests/walkouts/boycotts as the opposition lawmakers raised a significant number of cut motions against government demands for grants. More than half the members in each assembly refrained from participating in the general discussion on the budget.

Punjab Assembly started its Budget Session on June 10 followed by Sindh Assembly on June 13 and Balochistan Assembly on June 17, 2015. FAFEN could not observe the budget session of KP Assembly due to accreditation issues.

The lawmakers in Sindh Assembly debated the budget for 63% of the session time, while their counterparts in Punjab debated the same for 55% of the session time. On the other hand, the debate in Balochistan Assembly took up 54% of the session time. The Punjab Assembly passed the Finance Bill on June 24 during the 11th sitting of its 15th session while the Balochistan Assembly also passed Finance Bill on the same date during 5th sitting of its 19th session. Likewise, Sindh Assembly passed the Sindh Finance Bill on June 25 during its 10th (last) sitting.

The Sindh government moved 59 demands for grants and 50 supplementary demands, followed by the Balochistan government which raised 54 demands for grant and 27 supplementary demands. Similarly, the Punjab government raised 43 demands for grants and 40 supplementary demands.

Opposition legislators in all provincial assemblies moved a significant number of cut motions to express their disapproval towards the government's demands for grants. The lawmakers in Sindh Assembly raised 572 cut motions - the highest number against demand for grants 2015-16 followed by the Punjab Assembly with six cut motions. For the supplementary demand for grants, 132 cut motions were raised in Sindh Assembly followed by only four in Punjab Assembly. The Balochistan government faced no resistance as MPAs did not move a single cut motion, as was the case during budgets of last two financial years.

In addition to the passage of Finance Bills, active legislation was only witnessed in Punjab Assembly as it witnessed passage of nine other bills. The Balochistan Assembly passed two bills in addition to the Finance Bill, while the Sindh Assembly did not pass any bill except for the Finance Bill.

The budget session of the Punjab Assembly spanned over 13 sittings, which consumed 42 hours and 17 minutes. The Sindh Assembly remained in session for ten sittings, consuming 39 hours and 21 minutes whereas the Balochistan Assembly consumed 14 hours and 12 minutes for a total of six sittings.

As many as 79 (47%) out of 167 members in the Sindh Assembly debated the budget, followed by 27 (42%) out of 65 MPAs in Balochistan Assembly and 133 (36%) out of 368 in the Punjab Assembly.

Female legislators were more active during the budget debates as compared to their male counterparts, as a higher ratio of women lawmakers (with regards to their representation in respective legislatures) participated during the budget debates. Non-Muslim members also participated actively in the budget debates.

The budgets in Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan Assemblies were presented by their respective Finance Ministers/Advisors. The Leader of the House (Chief Minister) in Balochistan Assembly attended all six sittings, while the Chief Minister Sindh attended seven out of 10 sittings. The Chief Minister of Punjab was observed to be present in only two out of 13 sittings.

Lawmakers in Punjab Assembly were the only ones interested in questioning the government as MPAs submitted 35 starred and five un-starred questions. In addition, 32 supplementary questions were also asked. Out of the 35 starred questions, only 14 (40%) were taken up.

The other provincial assemblies-Sindh and Balochistan- did not witness treasury's oversight through this intervention of submitting questions.

The MPAs in all legislatures exercised controlled use of POs. Lawmakers in Punjab Assembly raised 49 POs consuming 1% of the session time; Sindh MPs raised 63 POs consuming 5% of the session time while the Balochistan Assembly consumed 6% of the session time on 16 POs raised by its lawmakers.

1 General Rules on Budget

The annual budget is presented in the Punjab and Sindh Assemblies on the day appointed by the Chief Minister. The day of presentation of budget in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan Assemblies is decided by the government.

No assembly permits a grant of demands to be made on the day the budget is presented, unless the government allows it. Normally, the Finance Minister or the Advisor to Chief Minister on Finance presents the budget. In his/her absence, any minister appointed by the Chief Minister can act on his/her behalf. No other business is allowed in the House on the day budget is presented.

The Speaker, after the budget presentation, allots the number of days for the budget debate. The process of budget consideration has three parts: 1) general discussion, 2) discussion on grants for demands, 3) voting. No member may move a motion on the days of general discussion, as per the rules of the four assemblies. At the end, the Finance Minister concludes the debate by delivering a speech.

1.1 Session Duration

Spanning nearly over half a month (17 days), the budget session of Punjab Assembly continued from June 10 to June 26, 2015 and had a total of 13 sittings. The Sindh Assembly's budget session lasted from June 13 to June 25, 2015 with a total of 10 sittings while Balochistan Assembly's session was convened from June 17 to June 25, 2015 having a total of six sittings.

The following table gives the number of sittings and durations of the budget session for the three provincial assemblies:

Table 1.1: Session Dates and Duration

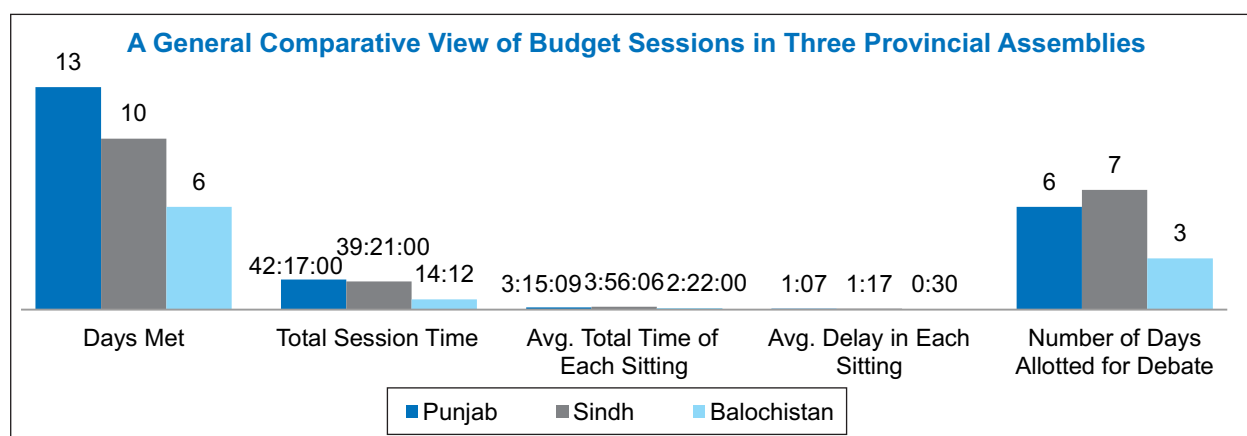
Assembly	No. of Sittings	Session Time
Punjab	13	42 hours and 17 minutes
Sindh	10	39 hours and 21 minutes
Balochistan	06	14 hours and 12 minutes

1.2 Budget Debate

The Rules of Procedure governing the budget sessions are mostly similar across provinces. The budget takes up the entire time on the day it is presented and a gap of at least two days between the budget presentation and subsequent discussion is mandatory under the Rules of Procedure of the respective assemblies.

The number of days for the general discussion on budget varies across assemblies, with seven days taken by Punjab Assembly, six days by Sindh Assembly and three days by Balochistan Assembly.

All assemblies met for the minimum number of days prescribed by their respective assembly rules, with Punjab Assembly starting their discussion on June 15, 2015 followed by Sindh Assembly which started its discussion on June 16, 2015 and Balochistan Assembly on June 21, 2015.



The lawmakers in Sindh Assembly debated the budget for 24 hours and 43 minutes (63% of the session time), while the debate in Punjab Assembly consumed 55% (23 hours and 20 minutes) of the session time. The MPAs in Balochistan debated the budget for 54% (seven hours and 42 minutes) of the session.

1.3 Delays

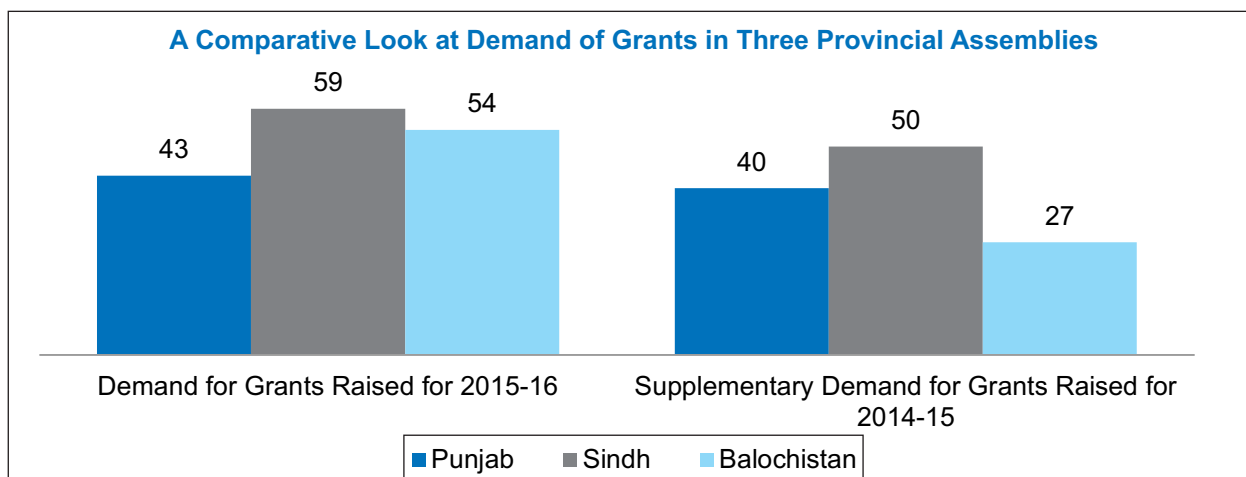
The sittings in all four assemblies started behind the schedule, with Sindh Assembly witnessing the highest average delay of 77 minutes followed by Punjab (67 minutes) and Balochistan (30 minutes).

1.4 Breaks

Lawmakers in Balochistan and Punjab legislatures took one break each during the entire budget session that consumed 47 minutes (6% of the session time) and 40 minutes (2% of the session time) respectively. The Sindh Assembly did not take any break during the session.

1.5 Demands for Grants

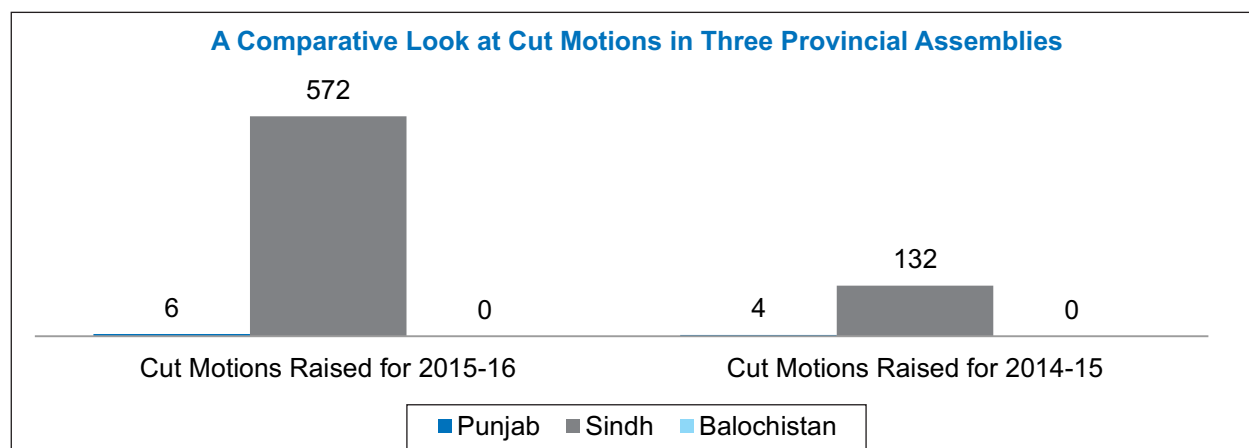
The demands for grants in all assemblies are made on the recommendation of the provincial governments. The highest number of demands for grants 2015-16 was raised by the Sindh Assembly (59); followed by Balochistan (54) and Punjab (43).



In addition, supplementary demands for grants for the year 2014-15 were also raised by three assemblies: 50 in Sindh, 40 in Punjab and 27 in Balochistan. Supplementary demands for grants are raised when a specific function/service is found to be insufficient or more funds are required to complete the function/service other than originally allocated in the previous fiscal year.

1.6 Cut Motions

A cut motion is a tool through which assembly members may oppose a demand for grant in the Finance Bill. There are three types of cut motions: 1) disapproval of policy cut, 2) economy cut and 3) token cut. Cut motions also test the strength of the government – if it does not have the numbers to defeat a cut motion, it is obliged to heed to members' demands.



The lawmakers in Sindh Assembly raised 572 cut motions - the highest number against demand for grants 2015-16 followed by Punjab Assembly with six cut motions. No cut motion was raised against demand for grants 2015-16 in Balochistan Assembly. For the supplementary demand for grants, 132 cut motions were raised in Sindh Assembly followed by four in Punjab Assembly and none in Balochistan Assembly.

2 Member's Participation

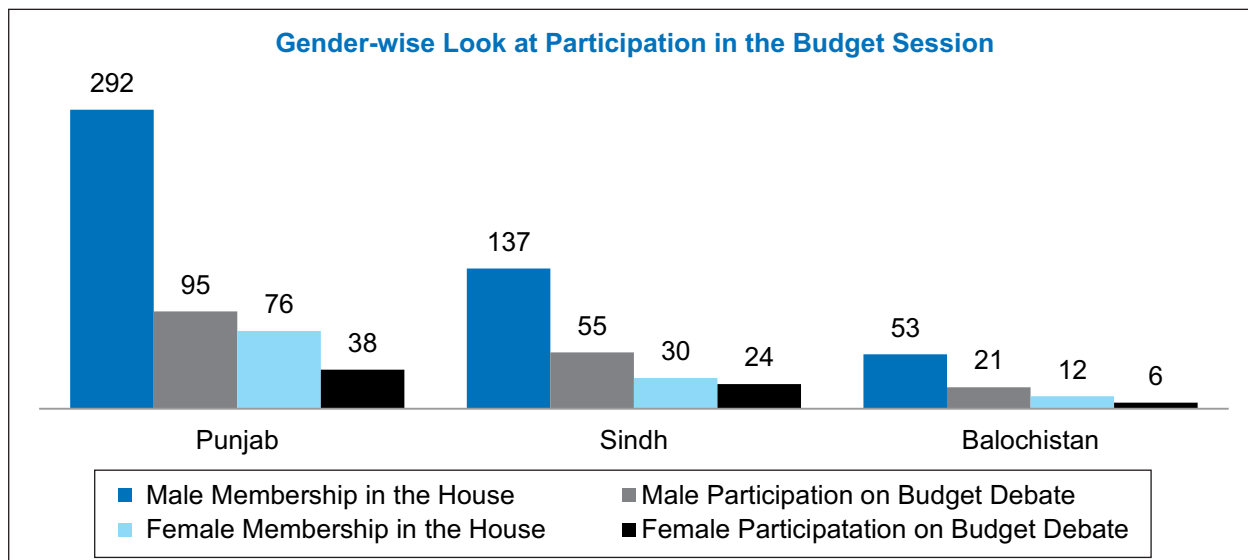
Over half of the members in each assembly refrained from participating in the general discussion on the budgets.

The Sindh Assembly had the highest participation of members with 47% MPAs (79 out of 168) engaged in on-floor deliberations, followed by Balochistan Assembly (27 out of 65 or 42%). The lowest participation by lawmakers was witnessed in Punjab Assembly where 133 (36%) out of 368 members took part in the budget discussion.

2.1 Sindh Assembly

Overall, the session (June 13 - June 25) was marked by low interest of lawmakers as 88 out of 167 legislators did not contribute to the debate. Of the 79 members who took part in the budget debate, 24 were female and 55 male. However, the female lawmakers were found to be more active as compared to their male counterparts, as 80% (24 out of 30) of them expressed their views on the budgetary proposals while only 40% (55 out of 137) males contributed to the general discussion.

The female lawmakers consumed 305 minutes while their male counterparts took 1,178 minutes of the debate.



2.2 Punjab Assembly:

The House witnessed low interest of lawmakers in Budget debate as 235 out of 368 legislators did not contribute to the debate. Of the 133 members who took part in the budget debate, 95 were male and 38 female. However, the female lawmakers were found to be more active as compared to their male counterparts, as 50% (38 out of 76) of them expressed their views on the budgetary proposals while only 33% (95 out of 292) males contributed to the general discussion.

The female lawmakers consumed 284 minutes while their male counterparts took 1116 minutes of the budget debate.

2.3 Balochistan Assembly:

Six out of 12 (50%) female members and 32 out of 53 (60 %) male lawmakers in the Balochistan Assembly did not participate in the budget debate.

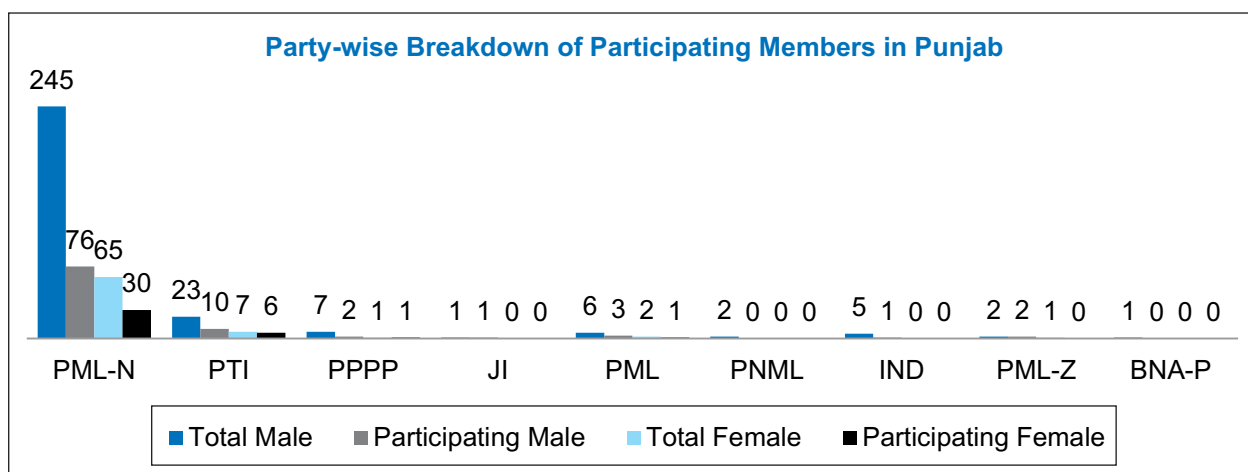
Of the 27 members who took part in the budget debate, six were female and 21 male. The female lawmakers debated the budget for 71 minutes (15% time spent on budget debate) whereas their male counterparts debated for 391 minutes (85% time spent on budget debate).

2.4 Party-Wise Analysis in Punjab

Out of 368 members in the Punjab Assembly, nearly 36% (95 male and 38 female) participated in the budget discussion. PML-N lawmakers contributed to 52% of the budget debate (737 out of 1400 minutes) followed by PTI (29%), PPPP (5%) while the remaining time was shared by PML, PNML, PML-Z and an independent member.

Out of 38 participating female MPs, 30 were from PML-N, followed by PTI (6), PML and PPPP (one each). Likewise, 95 of the male members debating the budget were from PML-N (76), PTI (10), PML (3), PPPP and PML-Z (2 each), JI (one) and an Independent lawmaker.

Among the non-participating MPAs, 204 were from PML-N followed by PTI (14), PPPP (5), PML and Independent lawmakers (4 each), PNML (2), BNAP and PML-Z (one).



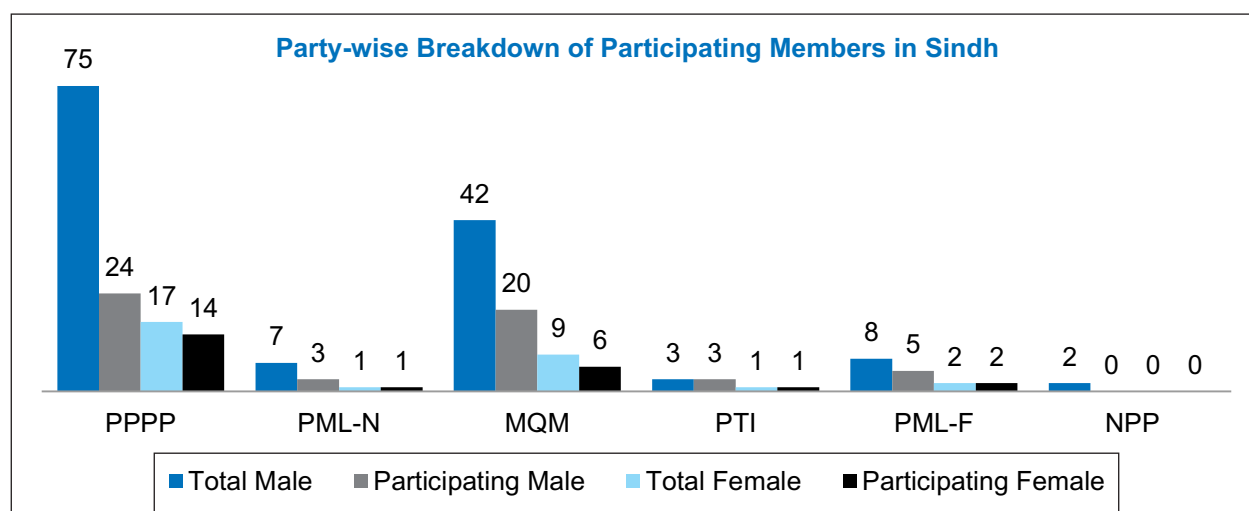
Thirty-five non-participating female lawmakers were from PML-N and one each from PTI, PML, PML-Z while of the 197 inactive male members, 169 belonged to PML-N followed by PTI (13), PPPP (five), independent lawmakers (four), PML (three), PNML (two), and BNAP (one).

2.5 Party-Wise Analysis in Sindh

Out of 167 members in the Sindh Assembly, nearly 47% (55 male and 24 female members) took part in budget debate. MPAs were given time to speak, more or less, in accordance with their party strengths in the House.

PPPP spoke for nearly half of the debated time (51%) followed MQM (34%) and PML-F (8%), PTI (4%) and PML-N (3%).

Out of 24 participating female MPs, 14 were from PPPP, followed by MQM (6), PML-F (2) and one each from PTI and PML-N. Likewise, 24 of the male members debating the budget were from PPPP, followed by MQM (20), PML-F (5) and PTI & PML-N (3 each).



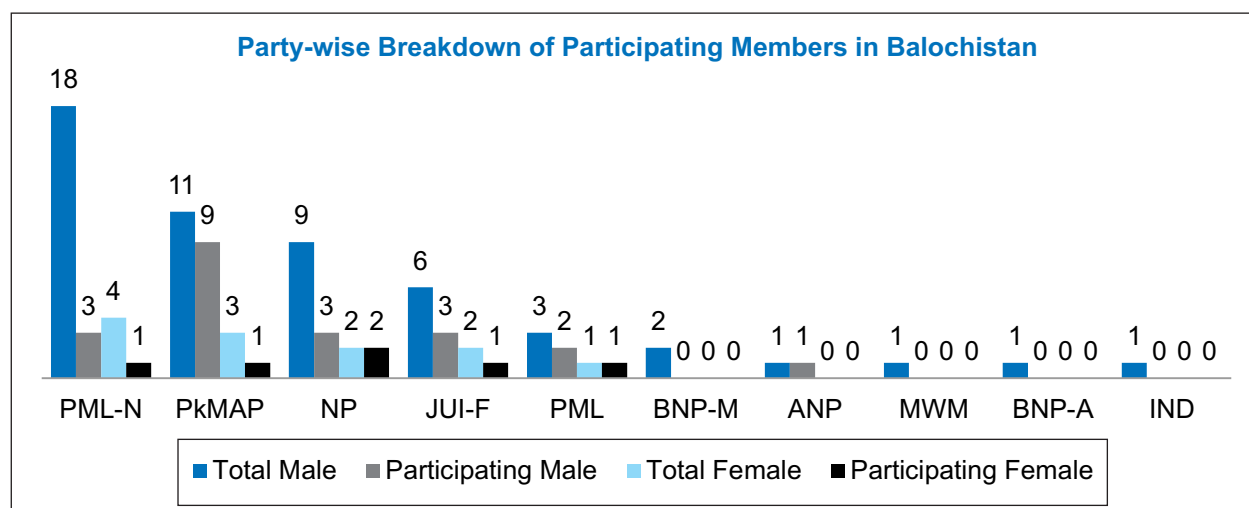
Among the non-participating lawmakers, six of them were female legislators while 82 were male lawmakers. Three each non-participating female lawmakers were from PPPP and MQM while of the 82 inactive male members, 51 belonged to PPPP, followed by MQM (22), PML-N (4), PML-F (3) and NPP (2).

2.6 Party-Wise Analysis in Balochistan

Out of 65 members in the Balochistan Assembly, nearly 42% (21 male and six female) participated in budget debate. PkMAP members spoke for 41% of the total time (190 out of 462 minutes) followed by JUI-F (16%), PML (14%), NP (12%), PML-N (11%) and ANP (6%).

Thirty-eight out of 65 lawmakers did not contribute to the budget debate. Six of the non-participating members were female legislators while 32 were male lawmakers. Half of the female lawmakers were from PML, followed by two from PkMAP and one from JUI-F.

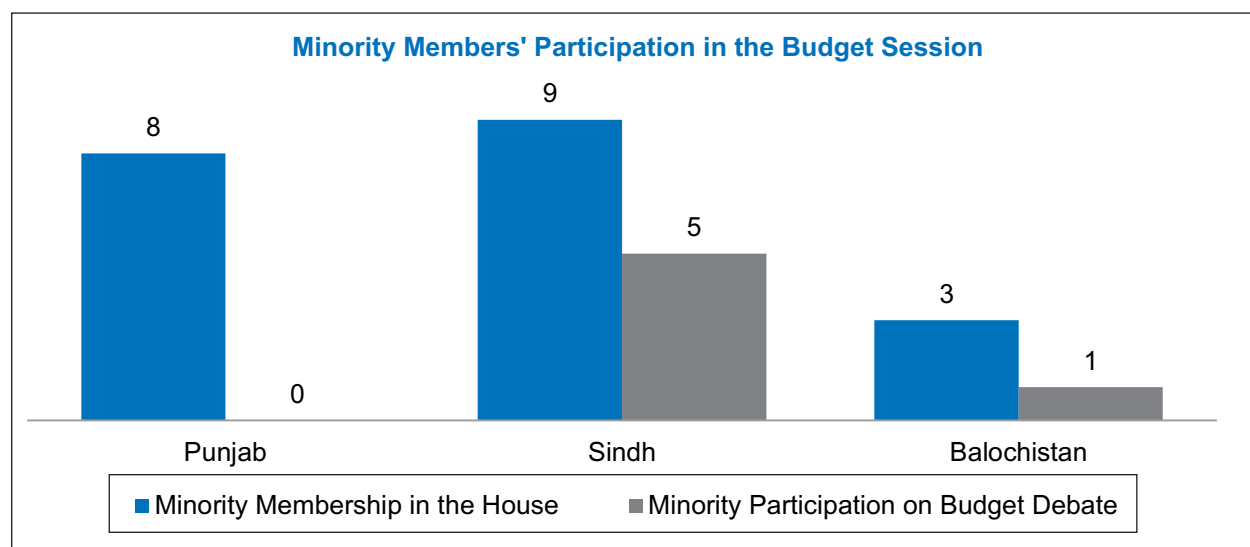
Similarly, of the 32 inactive male members, 15 belonged to PML-N, followed by NP (six), JUI-F (three), PkMAP and BNP-M (two each) and PML, MWM and BNP-A (one each). One independent lawmaker was also among the non-participating male members.



Of the 27 members who took part in the budget debate, six were female and 21 male. Two of the six female members were from NP while one each was from PML-N, PkMAP, JUI-F and PML. Similarly, nine of the male members debating the budget were from PkMAP, followed by PML-N, NP, JUI-F (three each), PML (2) and ANP (one).

2.7 Non-Muslim Members

The participation of non-Muslim MPAs was also witnessed during the budget sessions in provincial assemblies. Five out of eight minority members in Punjab Assembly, five out of nine minority members in Sindh and one out of three non-Muslim lawmakers in Balochistan Assembly participated in the budget debate.



3 Parliamentary Output

This section gives the details of business conducted during the session, including legislations and resolutions other than the Finance Bill.

3.1 Legislation

The Punjab Assembly passed the Finance Bill on June 24 during the 11th sitting of its 15th session while the Balochistan Assembly also passed Finance Bill on the same date during 5th sitting of its 19th session. Likewise, Sindh Assembly passed the Sindh Finance Bill on June 25 in its 10th (last) sitting.

The Punjab Assembly passed ten out of 11 government bills that appeared on the Orders of the Day during the session. The bills passed by the House included the Punjab Finance Bill 2015, the University of Jhang Bill 2015, the University of Sahiwal Bill 2015, the Punjab Motor Vehicle Transaction Licenses Bill 2015, the Provincial Motor Vehicles (Second Amendment) Bill 2015, the Punjab Infrastructure Development Cess Bill 2015, the Stamp (Amendment) Bill 2015, the Punjab Mass Transit Authority Bill 2015, the Ghazi University Dera Ghazi Khan (Amendment) Bill 2015 and the Provincial Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2015.

One of the bills – the Punjab Protection of Women against Violence Bill 2015 – was held for further consultation after introduction while the House witnessed presentation of the Punjab Institute of Qura'n and Seerat Studies (Amendment) Ordinance 2015.

The Balochistan Assembly passed three bills – the Balochistan Finance Bill 2015, the Balochistan Revenue Authority Bill 2015 and the Balochistan Sales Tax on Services Bill 2015.

The Sindh Assembly, however, did not pass any bill other than the Finance Bill. The following table gives the details of legislations passed/introduced in each assembly during the session:

Table 3.1: Legislation Passed/Introduced during the Budget Session

Assembly	Legislation	Status	Type of Legislation
Punjab	The Punjab Finance Bill, 2015	Passed	Bill
	The University of Jhang Bill, 2015	Passed	Bill
	The University of Sahiwal Bill, 2015	Passed	Bill
	The Punjab Infrastructure Development Cess Bill, 2015	Passed	Bill
	The Punjab Protection of Women against Violence Bill, 2015	Withheld for further consultation	Bill
	The Punjab Motor Vehicle Transaction Licensees Bill, 2015	Passed	Bill
	The Provincial Motor Vehicles (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015	Passed	Bill
	The Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2015	Passed	Bill
	The Punjab Masstransit Authority Bill, 2015	Passed	Bill
	The Ghazi University, Dera Ghazi Khan (Amendment) Bill, 2015	Passed	Bill
	The Provincial Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2013	Passed	Bill
	The Punjab Institute of Qura'n and Seerat Studies (Amendment) Ordinance 2015	Laid	Ordinance
Sindh	The Sindh Finance Bill, 2015	Passed	Bill
Balochistan	The Balochistan Finance Bill 2015	Passed	Bill
	The Balochistan Revenue Authority Bill 2015	Passed	Bill
	The Balochistan Sales Tax on Services Bill 2015	Passed	Bill

3.2 Resolutions

Resolutions allow legislators to voice their opinion, commend or condemn an action or draw attention to a matter of public interest and are sanctioned by the Rules of Procedures of the assemblies.

Punjab Assembly adopted a total of nine resolutions during the budget session. The adopted resolutions condemned the killings of PML-N lawmaker Rana Shamshad and his son, massacre of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and Indian Prime Minister's statement against Pakistan. The resolutions also demanded establishment of an authority for development of a hill station at Marri Gorchani in Rajanpur and extension in the period of the Provincial Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Ordinance 2015, Punjab Mass Transit Authority Ordinance 2015 and the Ghazi University, Dera Ghazi Khan (Amendment) Ordinance 2015. In addition, a resolution each was adopted to mourn the death of hundreds of people in Karachi and to commend the efforts of the federal government to minimize load shedding in the country and investigate allegations against MQM in a report published by BBC.

The Sindh and Balochistan Assemblies did not pass any resolution during the budget session.

4 Government Oversight

Government oversight is conducted through questions and CANs, allowing members to seek government's response and assurances on matters of public importance.

4.1 Question Hour and CANs:

The Provincial Budget of Punjab was presented during the 3rd sitting of Budget session and lawmakers performed treasury's oversight through 35 starred and five un-starred questions. In addition, 32 supplementary questions were also asked. Out of the 35 starred questions, only 14 (40%) were taken up.

The House took up four calling attention notices (CANs) related to law and order during the second sitting which were sponsored by one lawmaker each from PTI, PPP, PML-N and JI

The other provincial assemblies- Sindh and Balochistan- did not witness any accountability as no member submitted CANs or questions.

4.2 Privilege Motions

As many as two questions of privilege (QoPs) were submitted by the members in Punjab Assembly and both were referred to the relevant committee. The Opposition Leader in the House submitted a joint privilege motion against alleged highhandedness of sub-inspector of police with lawmakers outside the assembly building who stopped them from entering into the House. Another privilege motion of PML-N lawmaker was against DCO Toba Tek Singh for illegally occupying his land.

No privilege motion was submitted during the budget sessions of Sindh and Balochistan Assemblies.

4.3 Adjournment Motion

The Punjab Assembly admitted an Adjournment Motion moved by the Opposition Leader against the printing of Hazara and Saraikistan provinces on Pakistan's map in geography textbooks for eighth class.

The legislatures of Sindh and Balochistan did not admit any Adjournment Motion during their budget sessions.

5 Order and Institutionalization

Order and institutionalization is important for an efficient and productive legislature. This section includes details of lawmakers' points of order and protests in the assemblies during the session.

5.1 Points of Order

A lawmaker may raise a point of order (PO) if a rule pertaining to assembly procedure appears to have been violated. The indiscriminate use of POs mars the productivity of the House as it diverts the flow of business from the agenda.

The highest number of POs – 63 consuming 5% of the session time – raised during the budget session was in the Sindh Assembly, followed by Punjab with 49 POs consuming 1% of the session time and Balochistan with 16 POs consuming 6% of the session time.

5.2 Protests

All provincial assemblies witnessed walkouts, protests and boycotts during their budget sessions. Fourteen walkouts/protests were staged in Sindh Assembly (lasting about three hours and 49 minutes), followed by eleven protests/walkouts in Punjab Assembly (lasting about seven hours and 35 minutes). Balochistan Assembly witnessed boycott of the Opposition lawmakers for 72 minutes and one minute protest by female lawmakers of PML-N, PkMAP and JUI-F.

5.2.1 Punjab Assembly

In Punjab Assembly, the House witnessed ten individual or joint walkouts and one protest by entire Opposition. All opposition parties protested for 63 minutes on floor of the House during Budget speech delivered by the Finance Minister. The entire Opposition staged walkouts on five occasions against the remarks of Minister for Zakat and Ushr, unscheduled load-shedding, reservations on running House business, cut motions and supplementary demands for grants.

Jl lawmaker staged a walkout against increase in electricity tariff by NEPRA. Similarly, PTI legislator walked out over dissatisfaction upon quorum while a PML lawmaker walked out for not getting sufficient time to speak on a cut motion. Further, member hailing from PPP left the House to protest the fund allocation for development schemes in South Punjab and PML-N lawmaker for not following the list submitted for budget debate.

Table 5.2.1: Protests/Boycotts/Walkouts during the Budget Session

Party	Reason	Time (Minutes)	Type
Opposition	Against the remarks of Minister for Zakat and Ushr over the issue of Blind Persons	12	Walkout
Jl	Against increase in electricity tariff by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA)	1	Walkout
Opposition	Against Budget during Budget Speech of the Finance Minister	63	Protest
Sardar Shahab-ud-Din Khan	Against his reservations over development schemes in Southern Punjab	5	Walkout
Sheikh Ala ud Din	For not following the list submitted for discussion on the provincial budget	210	Walkout
Opposition	Against unscheduled load shedding in the province	58	Walkout
Opposition	To express concern over cut motions not being taken up according to the order	9	Walkout
Opposition	For including agenda items other than the Finance Bill on the list of business	27	Walkout
PTI	To express his dissatisfaction upon quorum	4	Walkout
Ms. Khadija Umer	For not getting sufficient time to speak on a cut motion	64	Walkout
Opposition	To express reservations against the supplementary demands for grants	2	Walkout

5.2.2. Sindh Assembly

The House also witnessed multiple individual or joint protests/walkouts. MQM lawmakers protested for three times and walked out twice over various issues, including not getting permission to table resolution against the Federal Minister for Defense, unwarranted remarks of the Provincial Minister for Katchi Abadies & Spatial Development, shortage of water in Karachi and not getting permission to speak on the floor of the House.

Joint protests and walkouts by PML-N, PTI and PML-F lawmakers were staged against the provincial budget, remarks of the Chief Minister as well as the Education Minister. The entire opposition protested by staging a walkout against the shortage of water in Karachi and the amendment in clause 6 of the Finance Bill regarding increase in the rate of stamp duty. PML-F lawmakers protested over kidnapping of a journalist in Interior Sindh.

Party	Reason	Time (Minutes)	Type
Opposition Members (Except MQM)	Against the 2015-16 Budget	20	Protest
		98	Walkout
MQM	When the Chair did not allow them to table a resolution against the remarks of Federal Minister for Defence during his speech in National Assembly	14	Walkout
		1	Protest
MQM	Against the remarks of Provincial Minister for Katchi Abadies & Spatial Development	8	Protest
MQM	When one of their colleagues was not allowed to respond to the remarks of the provincial minister	11	Walkout
PML-N PML-F PTI	To condemn the Chief Minister's remarks against the opposition parties	29	Walkout
		3	Protest
	Against the Senior Minister for Education's remarks	6	Protest
MQM	Against the shortage of water in Karachi	3	Protest
Opposition		8	Walkout
PML-F	Against kidnapping of journalist from Interior Sindh	1	Protest
Opposition	Against the amendment in clause 6 of the Finance Bill about increasing the rate of stamp duty	26	Walkout
		1	Protest

5.2.3 Balochistan Assembly

The opposition lawmakers boycotted the first sitting of the session due to the reservations over allocation of development funds and nomination of Public Accounts Committee Chairman, without taking them into confidence. The 5th sitting witnessed a protest by female lawmakers against the remarks of the Chief Minister's Advisor on Livestock.

Party	Reason	Time (Minutes)	Type
All Opposition	The budget session, terming it as 'anti-masses'	Entire Sitting (72 minutes)	Boycott
PML-N PkMAP JUI-F	Against Obaidullah Babat, Advisor on Forests and Livestock, remarks that women candidates won in general elections without making any struggle	One Minute	Protest

5.3 Quorum

During the budget session of the Punjab Assembly, PTI lawmakers pointed out the quorum thrice; it was found complete upon counting on two occasions but at one occasion, the sitting had to be suspended for 40 minutes. An Independent lawmaker also pointed out the quorum once but it was found complete upon counting.

In Sindh Assembly, the Speaker ignored the quorum twice during 2nd and 3rd sitting as pointed out by PTI and MQM lawmakers respectively. However, the quorum was found to be complete upon counting when pointed out by a PML-F lawmaker during the 7th sitting.

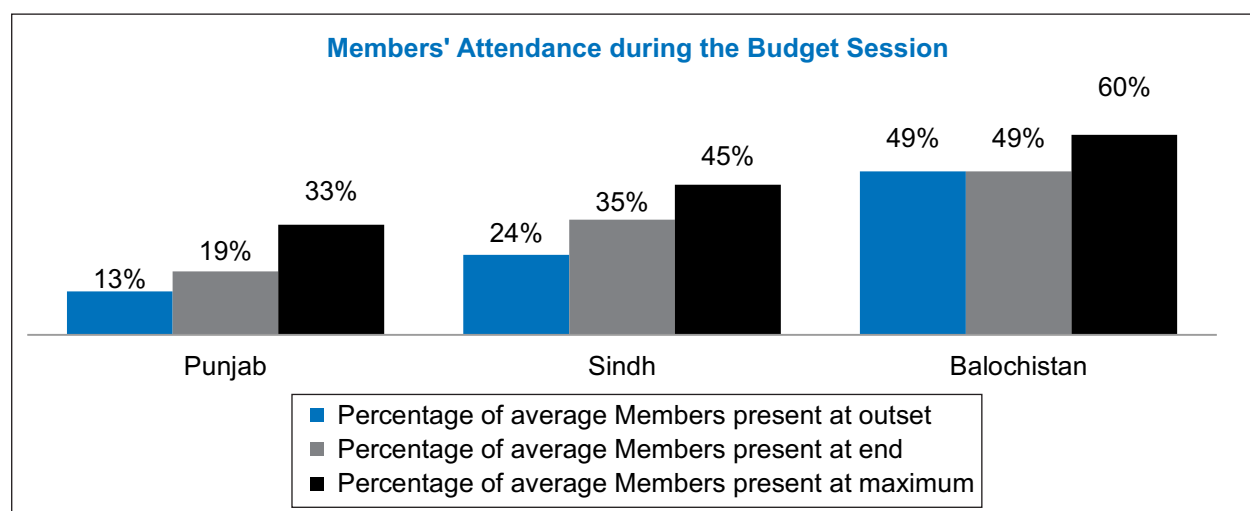
No issue of quorum was witnessed in Balochistan legislature during the budget session.

6.0 Attendance

The Sindh Assembly is the only legislature that has made the attendance record of its members available to the public. In an effort to gauge members' attendance on the floor of the assemblies, FAFEN observers conduct a headcount at the beginning and end of each sitting.

With the exception of Punjab Assembly, all legislatures maintained the quorum – 25% of the membership – throughout the budget session on average. In Punjab, members showed little interest in the session as 48 members (13%), on average, were present at the outset of the sitting and 72 lawmakers (19%) were present at the time of adjournment.

The Balochistan lawmakers had the best average attendance among the three assemblies, with 32 lawmakers (49%) present at the start and same number 32 (49%) at the time of adjournment while Sindh averaged 24% (41 MPAs) at the outset and 38 % (58 lawmakers) at the end of a sitting.



6.1 Key Members' Attendance

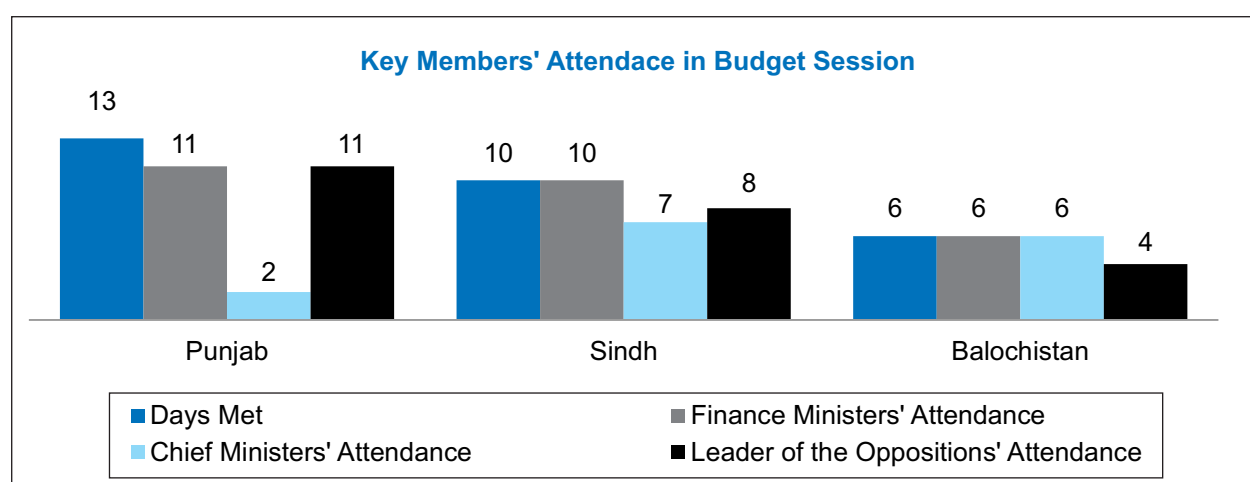
The attendance of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition is important in parliamentary proceedings. Additionally, the Finance Minister's attendance is crucial in the budget session while financial planning for the upcoming year is being finalized in the assemblies.

6.1.1 Leaders and Finance Minister

The Leaders of the Opposition in Punjab and Sindh Assemblies attended the sittings more regularly than the Leader of the House; Balochistan was the only province where the Leader of the House attended more sittings than his counterpart in the opposition.

Among the Leaders of the House, Punjab Chief Minister showed least interest as he attended only two of 13 sittings. The Opposition Leader, however, attended 11 sittings. The Sindh Chief Minister attended seven out of ten sittings, while the Opposition Leader attended eight sittings. The Balochistan Chief Minister attended all six sittings, while the Leader of the Opposition attended four sittings.

The budgets of Punjab and Sindh Assemblies were presented by their respective Finance Ministers while Advisor to Chief Minister on Finance presented the budget of Balochistan Assembly. The Sindh Finance Minister and Advisor to CM on Finance in Balochistan attended all 10 and six sittings respectively. The Punjab Finance Minister attended 11 out of 13 sittings.

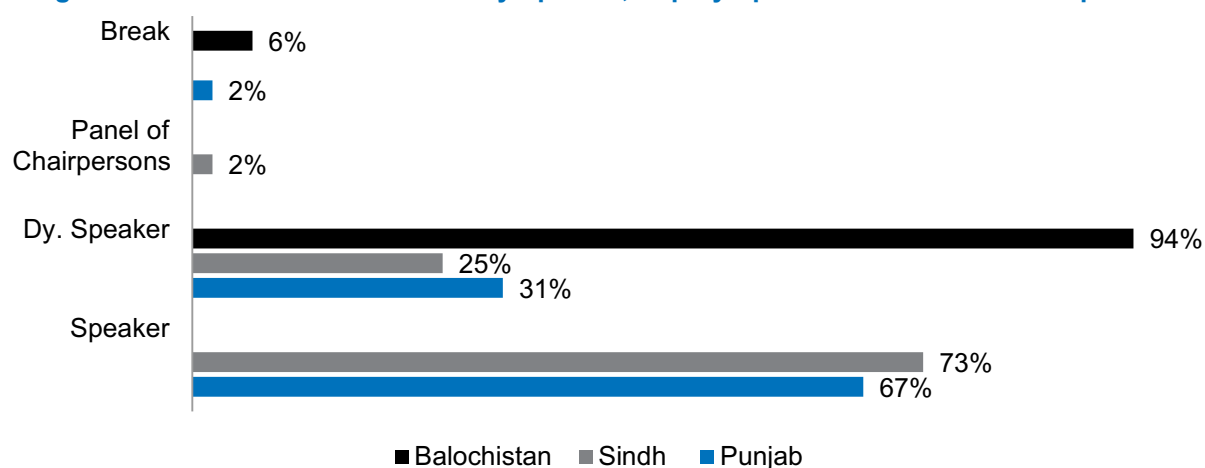


6.1.2 Speaker and Deputy Speaker

The Speakers of the provincial legislatures were present in all the sittings of Punjab and Sindh Assemblies while Deputy Speaker chaired all the sittings in Balochistan Assembly after resignation of the Speaker from the House. The Deputy Speakers of Punjab and Sindh, however, attended 12 and nine sittings respectively of their budget sessions.

The Punjab Assembly Speaker chaired 67% of the session's time; the Deputy Speaker presided over 31% of the time while the remaining time (2%) was consumed in a break. The Sindh Assembly Speaker chaired 73% of the proceedings; the Deputy Speaker presided over 25% of the session while the remaining time (2%) was chaired by a member of Panel of Chairpersons.

Figure 6.1.2: Session Time Chaired by Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Panel of Chairpersons



Nearly 94% of the session was chaired by the Deputy Speaker while the remaining 6% was consumed in breaks. The seat of Speaker has been lying vacant after the acceptance of Speaker's resignation on May 22, 2015.

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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