

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF PUNJAB

# FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

## 5<sup>th</sup> SESSION

December 03 – December 14, 2018



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Session  
Number

5

Working  
Days

12

Actual  
Sittings

10

Working  
Hours

23

Hours & 14 Minutes

# Punjab Assembly Addresses 72 percent Agenda in Fifth Session

## ▪ House Discusses Problems of Agriculture and Health Sectors

ISLAMABAD, December 17, 2018: The Punjab Assembly addressed nearly three quarters (72%) of its scheduled business during its fifth session that continued between December 3 and December 14, 2018.

The session, comprising ten sittings, continued for 23 hours and 14 minutes with each sitting, on an average, starting an hour and 28 minutes behind the scheduled time and lasting for two hour and 20 minutes.

According to FAFEN's headcount conducted during the proceedings, an average of 79 (21%) members present at the start and 71(19%) at the adjournment of each sitting. On the other hand, the official attendance statistics show that an average 221 members attended every sitting. The highest official attendance was 235 and the lowest 190. Similarly, six out of eight minority lawmakers attended each sitting on an average. The Chief Minister did not attend any sitting throughout the session while the Leader of the Opposition attended only one out of ten sittings for 25 minutes.

The Speaker attended three sittings and chaired the House for three hours and 48 minutes (18% of the proceedings) while the Deputy Speaker attended all sittings and

presided over the proceedings for 14 hours and 58 minutes (72% of the proceedings). The remaining ten percent proceedings (two hours and nine minutes) were chaired by a member of the Panel of Chairpersons.

The sole lawmaker of the Pakistan Rah-e-Haq Party (PRHP) attended nine sittings and was followed by the parliamentary leader of PPPP who attended two sittings. The remaining parliamentary parties have yet not notified their leaders in the House.

### Legislation

The government introduced six pieces of legislation in the House which were forwarded to the Special Committee-I for review as the House has not yet constituted its standing committees. Below is brief description of these bills.

#### **The Punjab Prevention of Conflict of Interest Bill 2018**

The bill provides for establishing principles of conflict of interest for public office holders and the related post-employment matters.

#### **The Punjab Right to Public Services Bill 2018**

The bill provides for time-bound delivery of public services to the people including liabilities of the

## KEY MEMBERS ATTENDANCE



SPEAKER

**3**/<sub>10</sub>

Presiding Time (hh:mm)

**03:48**



DEPUTY SPEAKER

**10**/<sub>10</sub>

Presiding Time (hh:mm)

**14:58**



CHIEF MINISTER

**0**/<sub>10</sub>

Attended Time (hh:mm)

**00:00**



LEADER OF OPPOSITION

**1**/<sub>10</sub>

Attended Time (hh:mm)

**00:25**

## PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ATTENDANCE



PPPP

**4**/<sub>10</sub>



RHP

**9**/<sub>10</sub>

Average Delay

1

Hour & 28 Minutes

Members at  
Outset (Average)

79

present

Members at End  
(Average)

71

present

Maximum  
Members (Average)

235

government servants in case of undue delay in the services.

### **The Punjab Domestic Workers Bill 2018**

The bill provides for the protection of the rights of domestic workers by regulating their terms of employment, working conditions and provision of social protection and welfare.

### **The Punjab Skills Development Authority Bill 2018**

The bill provides for promotion and regulation of the vocational training and technical education.

### **The Punjab Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (Amendment) Bill 2018**

The bill provides for granting administrative, operational and regulatory autonomy to the Punjab Skills Development Authority

### **The Punjab Board of Technical Education (Amendment) Bill 2018**

The bill provides for granting administrative, operational and regulatory autonomy to the Punjab Skills Development Authority

### **Resolutions**

The House adopted nine resolutions – six sponsored by private members, one by the government and two jointly by the private members and the government – during the session. Of six private members' resolutions, three were initiated by PTI lawmakers, two by PML lawmakers and one by PML-N lawmaker. The House expressed gratitude to Speaker for arranging a

ceremony to commemorate Eid Milad-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him) and condemned the terror attack on Chinese consulate in Karachi.

The private members' resolution adopted during the session recommended the government to build toilets in rural areas of the province, take steps for smog prevention and improve the performance of the camera systems installed by the Punjab Safe City Authority. The resolutions moved through supplementary agenda urged the government to declare 2019 as year for raising awareness about fundamental human rights, commemorate the fourth anniversary of the attack on Army Public School (APS) Peshawar in 2014 and felicitating the federal government on its 'effective response' to the United States of America (USA) over blacklisting of Pakistan for religious freedom violations.

Moreover, the House deferred two resolutions regarding curbing dengue virus and begging practices were deferred due to absence of the movers. A resolution by a PTI lawmaker recommending to consider National Identity Cards as domiciles was deferred. The House rejected a PML-N lawmaker's resolution regarding agricultural subsidy on tube wells.

### **Committees' Business**

The House has not yet constituted its standing committees which were due to be elected by November 18, 2018 i.e. within ninety days after the election of the Leader of the House that took place on August 20, 2018.

# 2

## Protests

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The committee business is being managed by setting up special committees.

During the fifth session, the Speaker constituted an eight-member Special Committee to propose amendments to Rules of Procedure of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab 1997 regarding issuance of production orders of a detained/arrested lawmaker.

Moreover, the House granted extension to the Special Committee-II for presenting its report on the losses incurred to the exchequer due to closure of the development projects initiated by the Punjab government prior to 2008.

108 Points of Order (POs) consuming two hours and 32 minutes (11% of the proceedings). Out of these 108 POs, 48 were raised by PTI lawmakers, 44 by PML-N, 10 by PML, four by PPPP and two by RHPP. Through the Pos, the lawmakers highlighted issues concerning increase in the prices of electricity and fertilizers, protests by farmers and lawyers, proposed taxes and other governance and political matters.

### Calling Attention Notices & Adjournment Motions

The House took up four Calling Attention Notices (CANs) on the incidents related to law and order. These notices were sponsored by PML-N lawmakers. These notices highlighted the incidents of rape and honor killing of two girls in Rahim Yar Khan, robbery and killing in Sialkot, and use of firearms in Narowal. The Provincial Minister for Law stated the government's position on these incidents before the House. The remaining three CANs remained unaddressed due to absence of relevant movers.

The lawmakers also submitted eight Adjournment Motions (AMs) on issues concerning the health, education and law and order sectors. The House discussed only two AMs about the transfer of Victoria Hospital's doctors to a hospital in D.G. Khan and the facilities provided to children with special needs in schools. Of the remaining AMs, five were deferred due to absence or unpreparedness of the relevant ministers while one was referred to the Special Committee-I for feedback on it. As many as five of AMs were

# 3

## Walkouts

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### Questions

The Assembly held ten Question Hours during the session including 98 Starred Questions and 147 Unstarred Questions on its agenda. A starred question requires written as well as oral reply while an unstarred question requires written reply only. The House took up almost 54 (55%) Starred Questions for answers during the proceedings. Of the remaining, 31 questions were deferred, and 13 disposed of due to absence of movers or relevant ministers. The lawmakers raised 125 supplementary questions to gain further clarity on government's responses.

### Zero Hour and Points of Order

The House, on a PTI lawmaker's motion, sought government's response on the increase in fee of private medical colleges during the Zero Hour. The issue was responded to by Provincial Minister for Law. Moreover, the lawmakers also raised

# 108

## Points of Order

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# 9

## Resolution Adopted

# 6

## Bills Referred to Committee

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# 4

## Calling Attention Notices

sponsored by PML-N lawmakers, two by PTI and one by PML.

### General Discussions

The House debated the issues related to agriculture and health sectors on the motions moved by the government. The discussion on agriculture sector focused on the problems faced by sugarcane growers who were protesting across the province due to delay in the commencement of crushing season. As many as 21 lawmakers – PTI 11, PML-N 9, and PPPP one) participated in the debate that continued for three hours and 22 minutes (15% of the proceedings).

As many as 19 lawmakers – PTI and PML-N nine each, PPPP one – participated in debate on health sector's issues that continued for an hour and 49 minutes (eight percent of the proceedings). The House also discussed the annual Report of the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women for the Year 2016. As many as four lawmakers –PML-N two, PPPP and PTI one each) – discussed the report consuming 18 minutes.

### Walkouts/Protests

The House witnessed three incidents of walkout and two of protests during the session. The opposition parties collectively staged a walkout for three minutes against rejection of a PML-N lawmaker's resolution regarding revoking of agricultural subsidy on tube wells by the Federal Government.

The opposition party PML-N's lawmakers singly walked out from proceedings over police action baton against their party workers outside

the Accountability Court and the Speaker's decision to disallow a resolution recommending the Speaker to issue production order for a PML-N lawmaker. These walkouts continued 10 and 20 minutes respectively.

The party also staged two protests during the proceedings for two minutes. The first protest was against Chair's decision to dispose of a question while the second was against the Provincial Minister for Law's comments against the opposition.

### Quorum

The opposition lawmakers identified the lack of quorum five times during the proceedings. This caused three sittings to be adjourned immediately while the remaining two sittings resumed after completion of the quorum following the ringing of the Assembly bells for five minutes.

## 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 23,700 followers on Twitter and around 144,700 on Facebook, FAFEN is considered one of the most reliable sources of electoral and parliamentary information in the country.

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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.