PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF PUNJAB

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

18th Session
January 23 - January 29, 2020
### ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CANs</td>
<td>CALL ATTENTION NOTICES</td>
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<tr>
<td>PML</td>
<td>PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE</td>
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<tr>
<td>PML-N</td>
<td>PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE (NAWAZ)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPPP</td>
<td>PAKISTAN PEOPLES PARTY PARLIAMENTARIANS</td>
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<td>PRHP</td>
<td>PAKISTAN RAH-E-HAQ PARTY</td>
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<td>PTI</td>
<td>PAKISTAN TEHREEK-E-INSAF</td>
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<tr>
<td>POs</td>
<td>POINTS OF ORDER</td>
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The Provincial Assembly of Punjab left 72% of its scheduled business unaddressed during 18\textsuperscript{th} session, comprising five sittings that continued between January 23, 2020 and January 29, 2020, observes Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) in its session report.

Each sitting, on an average, commenced an hour and 40 minutes behind the scheduled time and lasted two hours and 32 minutes. An average of 40 (10\%) lawmakers were present at the outset and 58 (16\%) lawmakers at the adjournment of each sitting. The Leader of the House (Chief Minister) did not attend any of the sitting while the Leader of the Opposition was present in one sitting for 54 minutes.

The regular as well as supplementary agenda of the House during 18\textsuperscript{th} session comprised nine resolutions, four adjournment motions, two reports and as many Call Attention Notices, one private member's bill, one zero hour notice and one question of privilege. The House overall transacted 28\% agenda while lawmakers spoke on 56 Points of Order (POs) during the session, consuming 14 percent (an hour and 50 minutes) of the proceedings.

The 18\textsuperscript{th} session of the Punjab Assembly, comprising five sittings, continued between January 23, 2020 and January 29, 2020. The cumulative duration of the session was 12 hours and 42 minutes while the proceedings remained suspended for four hours and 59 minutes due to prayer breaks and suspension of the proceedings.

Each sitting, on an average, commenced an hour and 40 minutes behind the scheduled time and continued nearly for two hours and 32 minutes. The Speaker was present in three sittings and presided over the proceedings for four hours and two minutes (32 percent of the session’s time). The Deputy Speaker attended four sittings and chaired the proceedings for three hours and 41 minutes (29 percent of session’s time) while four hours and 59 minutes (39\% of the session’s time) was consumed in breaks or suspension of the proceedings.

The Leader of the House (Chief Minister) did not attend any of the sitting while the Leader of the Opposition was present in one sitting for 54 minutes (seven percent of the proceedings). The official attendance records indicates that an average of 197 (53\%) members were present in the proceedings. According to headcounts conducted by FAFEN, an average of 40 (10\%) lawmakers were present at the outset and 58 (16\%) at the adjournment of each sitting. The parliamentary leader of PPPP attended four sittings while PRHP leader did not attend any of the sitting.
This section deals with the legislative business, resolutions, reports and documents presented before the House during the session.

### 2.1 Legislation

One private member’s bill was brought before the House during 18th session which was dropped due to the absence of the mover. The bill – the Pakistan Penal Code (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2020 – was sponsored by a PML-N lawmaker.

### 2.2 Resolutions

Sponsored by PTI and PML-N lawmakers, a total of eight private members’ resolutions appeared on the agenda and none of them was adopted by the House. Only one supplementary condolence resolution, tabled by Provincial Minister for Law, was unanimously adopted to pay homage to a deceased former legislator Chaudhry Muhammad Anwar Bhinder.

The House rejected three private resolutions after voice voting. The rejected motions demanded to adopt uniform educational policy for private educational institutes, establish cardiology centres at the district level and take action against misbehaviour of Monitoring and Evaluation Assistants (MEAs) with teaching staff.

Another two private resolutions were deferred due to absence of concerned ministers which were about provision of clean drinking water to citizens and payment of group insurance to the government employees.

Two other resolutions demanding to remove unwanted speed breakers and build government Schools in a constituency (PP-160, NA-128) of Lahore were withdrawn by their respective movers. One resolution was dropped due to the mover’s absence which was about increasing number of seats in government medical colleges and start evening classes there.

### 2.3 Reports

The Minister for Law presented the report of the Public Accounts Committee-II on the accounts of various government departments for the audit year 2014-15 and also a report of Special Committee on an adjournment motion. The House passed a motion granting extension to the privilege committee for laying of its reports on the matters referred to it.
Sittings Duration (hh:mm)

Key Members' Attendance

Speaker 3/5 04:02
Deputy Speaker 4/5 03:41
Chief Minister 0/5 00:00
Leader of Opposition 1/5 00:54

Parliamentary Leaders Attendance

PPPP 4/5
RHP 0/5

Members' Attendance

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<th>2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>42</td>
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This section gives statistical as well as qualitative overview of legislator’s interventions in the House – Calling Attention Notices (CANs), Questions, Adjournment Motions (AM) or any other motions – for the oversight of government and to articulate issues of public interest and importance.

According to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Punjab Assembly, the first hour of a sitting of the House is reserved for asking and answering of question by the members. The rules require the government to answer a starred question orally as well as in writing while the un-starred questions are to be replied only in writing.

### 3.1 Questions

The lawmakers asked as many as 106 starred questions and 11 un-starred questions from three different ministries/departments of the government during the session. The House took up 18 (17 percent) starred questions for verbal answers during the proceedings while the remaining 88 (83 percent) were left unaddressed due to absence of their movers or the concerned ministers. In addition, lawmakers asked 45 supplementary questions for further elucidation of the government’s replies on starred questions.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministries</th>
<th>Starred</th>
<th>Un-starred</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YOUTH AFFAIRS, SPORTS, ARCHEOLOGY AND TOURISM</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOLS EDUCATION</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COOPERATIVES DEPARTMENT</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>11</td>
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### 3.2 Call Attention Notices

A lawmaker can call the attention of a minister/department’s head for any matter involving law and order situation or a definite matter of urgent public importance, by submitting one calling attention notice per sitting.

The Minister for Law responded to a CAN highlighting an incident of robbery in Lahore while another CAN about rape of 18-year old girl remained unaddressed due to absence of the mover. These CANs were sponsored by lawmakers belonging to PML-N and PTI respectively.

### 3.3 Adjournment Motions

The Assembly may adjourn its regular proceedings to debate any definite and urgent matter of public importance raised through adjournment motions (AMs). Following the discussion, the House may refer the contents of debated AM to the provincial cabinet for its
consideration through a substantive motion.

The lawmakers belonging to PML-N submitted four AMs seeking discussions on matters of urgent public importance. All these AMs were deferred which were related to issues of clean drinking water in schools, mismanagement in Tehsil Headquarter Hospital Muridke, delay in the construction of medical tower in Jinnah Hospital Lahore and grasshopper infestation in Punjab.

3.4 Zero Hour Notice
A PPPP lawmaker submitted a zero hour notice during the session which was regarding removal of sand and clay from Daajal Canal, District Rajanpur due to which banks of canal are becoming weak. The House took up this notice and the Minister for Irrigation responded to it.

3.5 General Debates in the House
The House held a general discussion on the subjects related to Indian atrocities in Occupied Kashmir, inflation in the country, and law and order situation. As many as twelve lawmakers – PML-N (6), PTI (5), and PPPP (one) – participated in the discussion consuming two hours and one minute of the proceedings.

As many as 13 lawmakers – PTI (8), PML-N (4) and PML (one) – debated a privilege motion of Deputy Speaker for 29 minutes against alleged misconduct of police with him.

4 Order and Institutionalization

Order and Institutionalization is important for an efficient and productive legislature. This section provides information about questions of privilege, points of order, quorum and any instances of walkout during the proceedings.

4.1 Question of Privilege:
The House considered a Privilege motion of Deputy Speaker against alleged misconduct of police with him. As many as 13 lawmakers spoke for 29 minutes on the matter while the Speaker gave a ruling to summon Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab for reply on it.

4.2 Points of Order
Lawmakers spoke on 56 Points of Order (POs) during the session consuming an hour and 50 minutes (14%) of the proceedings. Nine lawmakers raising points of order were from PML-N followed by PTI (six), PPPP (two), Independent and PML (one each).

4.3 Walkout/Protest
The opposition lawmakers staged a protest for two minutes during second sitting against the controversial statement of Minister for Information. They walked out of the House for 12 minutes in the last sitting against the Chair’s attitude who did not give floor to a PML-N lawmaker.
4.4 Quorum

The quorum was pointed out on an occasion during the session. A PTI lawmaker pointed out quorum in last (5th) sitting that led to the announcement by the Chair to prorogue the session as the attendance of lawmakers was found less than the required strength (i.e. one-fourth of the total membership).
About FAFEN

- FAFEN is one of the most credible networks of civil society organizations working for strengthening citizens' voice and accountability in Pakistan since 2006.

- FAFEN has harnessed information technology for real-time monitoring, facilitation and technical backstopping of partners for effective and result-based program delivery.

- FAFEN is the only civil society group to have been invited by the Judicial Commission to present the evidence of illegalities and irregularities documented through the course of General Elections 2013 Observation. The systemic and procedural issues identified by FAFEN have been acknowledged by the commission in its detailed findings.

- FAFEN's recommendations for electoral reforms have contributed to the work of Parliamentary Committee for Electoral Reforms.

- FAFEN's advocacy for parliamentary transparency, accountability and reforms has shaped public discourse on parliamentary reforms. Improved citizens' access to parliamentary information including daily public release of parliamentarians' attendance records can be directly attributed to FAFEN's work.

- FAFEN deployed 18,000 and 40,000 non-partisan and trained observers for the systematic observation of general election 2008 and 2013, respectively, largest citizens' observation ever undertaken in Pakistan.

- FAFEN's evidence and recommendations for reforms have improved the quality of public and political discourse on elections, its issues and need for reforms. Leading political parties and media houses extensively use FAFEN's election findings and analysis to build a case for reforms.

- With more than 25,000 followers on Twitter and around 144,000 on Facebook, FAFEN is considered one of the most reliable sources of electoral and parliamentary information in the country.