

HOUSE OF FEDERATION

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

293rd SESSION

August 29 - September 3, 2019



FREE AND FAIR ELECTION NETWORK

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ABBREVIATIONS

PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)
PPPP	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
PML-F	Pakistan Muslim League (Functional)
NP	National Party
BNP-M	Balochistan National Party (Mengal)
ANP	Awami National Party
BAP	Balochistan Awami Party
JI	Jamaat-e-Islami
JUI (F)	Jamiatul-Ulema-e-Islam (F)
MQM	Mutahidda Qaumi Movement
PkMAP	Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party
IND	Independent Member
CANs	Calling Attention Notices
AM	Adjournment Motion

Total
Sittings

4

Working
Days

6

Cumulative
Duration

10

Hours & 42 Minutes

Total
Break Time

28

Minutes

SENATE ADDRESSES 85% AGENDA WITH 67 PERCENT ATTENDANCE

- 59 Lawmakers Participate in Proceedings
- Upper House Disapproves PMDC Ordinance, 2019

The Senate addressed 85 percent of its scheduled business during its 293rd session that continued between August 29, 2019 and September 3, 2019, observes Free and Fair Election Network in its session report.

Of 103 lawmakers in the House at present, 59 (57 percent) including 45 men and 14 women Senators contributed to the proceedings of the House by sponsoring various parliamentary interventions and/or contributing in the debates. On the other hand, 44 (43 percent) lawmakers including 38 men and six women did not participate in the proceedings throughout the session.

The overall business brought before the House during 293rd session comprised 17 legislative proposals including four Ordinances, seven resolutions, two Calling Attention Notices (CANs), 11 starred questions, six Motions under Rule 18 and a motion under Rule 126 (7).

1 Session, Duration and Attendance

The 293rd session of the Senate spanned over six working days and comprised of four sittings held between August 29, 2019 and September 3, 2019. The cumulative duration of the session was 10 hours and 42 minutes while the proceedings remained suspended for 28 minutes due to prayer breaks. Each sitting started at the scheduled time and lasted two hours and 40 minutes. The Prime Minister did not attend any of the sitting. The Leaders of the House and the Opposition attended all sittings for 97% (10 hours and 20 minutes) and 73% (seven hours and 47 minutes) of the proceedings' time.

The parliamentary leader of ANP, JI, PPPP, PkMAP attended all four sittings followed by PTI and NP (three each), PML-N, MQM, JUI-F, BNP-M (two each) and one by BAP leader. PML-F leader did not attend any of the sitting.

According to the headcount conducted by FAFEN observer, an average of 17 lawmakers were present at the outset and 27 at the adjournment of each sitting. The Chairman attended all four sittings and presided over the House for 10 hours and 14 minutes (96 percent of the proceedings) while Deputy Chairman remained absent throughout the session. Four percent of the session's time was consumed in prayer breaks.

Average
Sitting Delay

0

Minute

Members at Outset
(Average)

17

present

Members at End
(Average)

27

present

Maximum
Members

69

2 Senate Output

This section deals with the legislative business, resolutions, reports and documents presented before the House during the session.

2.1 Legislation

The legislative business scheduled for 293rd session included 12 private members' bills, one government-sponsored bill and four Ordinances. The House passed two bills including a private member's bill and referred eight private members' bills to the relevant standing committees following their first reading i.e. introduction in the House.

Two private members' bills seeking amendments in the Constitution were deferred and another private member's bill – the Pakistan Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (Insertion of new section 79A) – was withdrawn by its mover.

Four Ordinances including the Naya Pakistan Housing and Development Authority Ordinance, 2019; the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority Ordinance, 2019; the Pakistan Penal Code Ordinance, 2019 and the National Counter Terrorism Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019 were laid in the House. Details of bills passed by the House and referred to the relevant committees after their introduction are as follows:

2.1.1 Govt. Bill Passed

1 The Heavy Industries Taxila Board (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The bill seeks to amend the Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT) Board Act, 1997 in order to expand the scope of commercial activities and potential of HIT.

... **Mover's Name:** Minister for Defence Production, Zubaida Jalal

... **Date of Passage:** September 2, 2019

2.1.2 Private Member's Bill Passed

1 The Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (Amendment) Bill, 2019

It aims at extending the services of Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services by including the provisions of in-service trainings for the federal and provincial government's official to equip them with the knowledge of parliamentary and legislative affairs of the country.

... **Mover's Name:** Sassui Palijo (PPPP)

... **Date of Passage:** September 2, 2019

2.1.3 Private Members' Bills Introduced

1 The Trade Organizations (Amendment) Bill, 2019

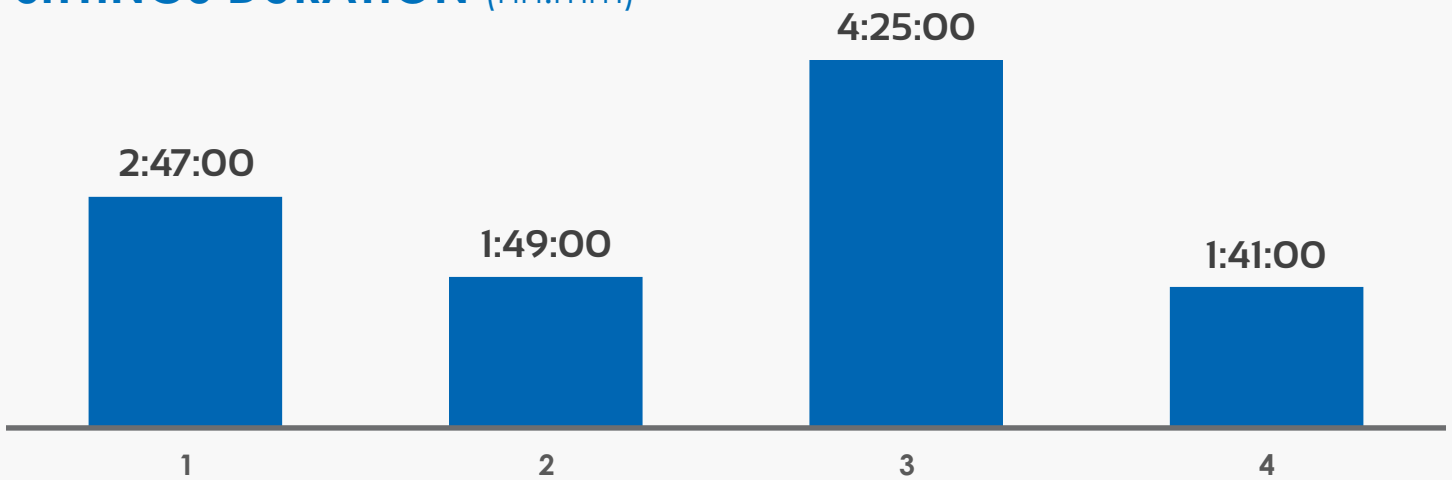
This bills aims at increasing tenure of the office bearers of trade organization from one year to three year in order to ensure the continuity and due implementation of the polices made for the improvement in business sector.

... **Mover's Name:** Naseeb Ullah Bazai (Independent)

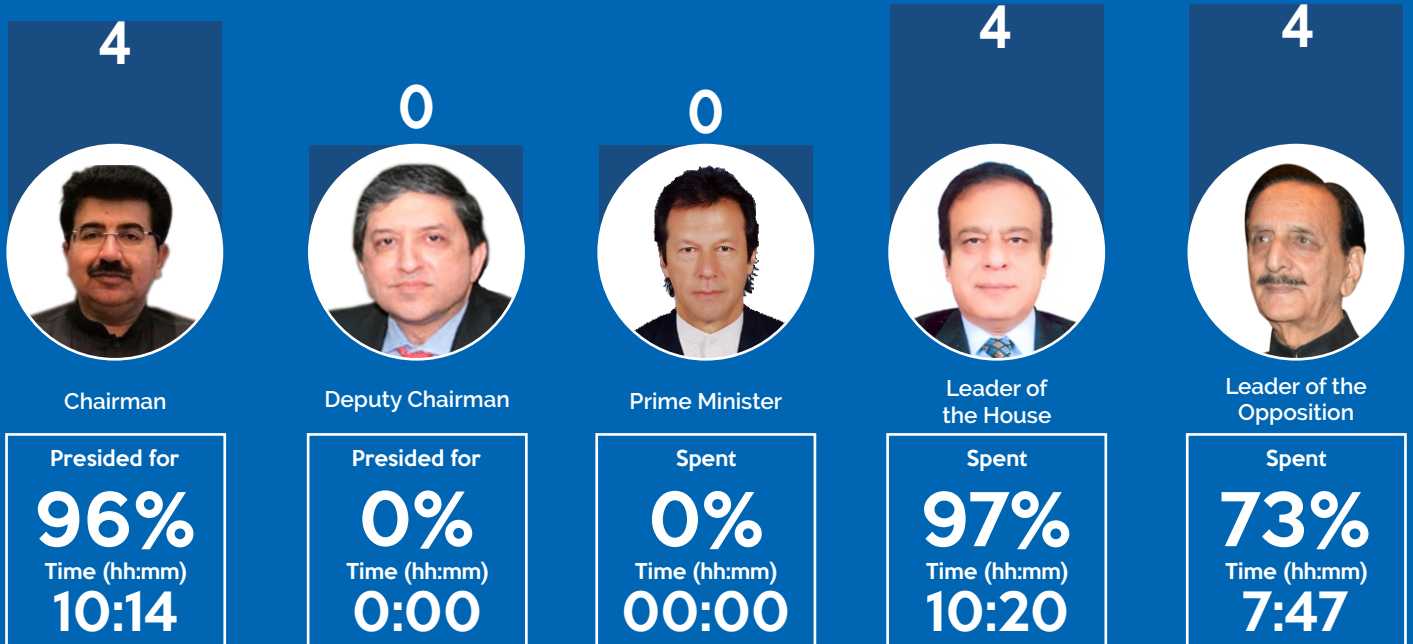
... **Date of Introduction:** September 2, 2019

... **Referred to:** Standing Committee on Commerce

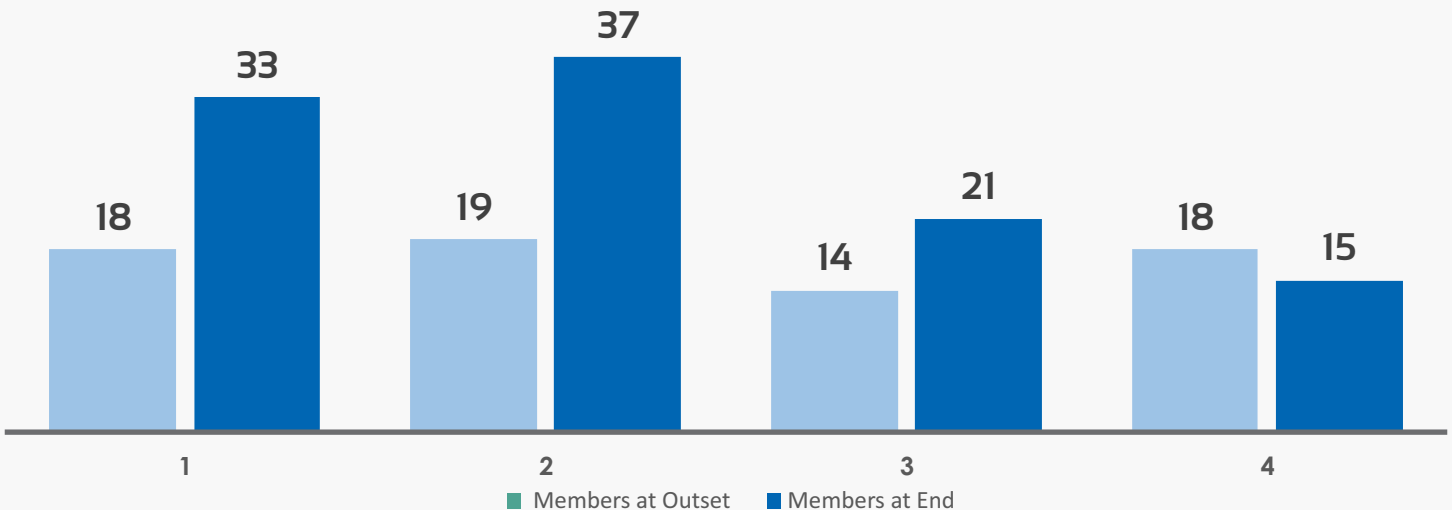
SITTINGS DURATION (hh:mm)



KEY MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



Government
Bill

1

Ordinances

4

Private
Members' Bills

12

Private Member's
Bill Passed

1

2 The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (Amendments of Articles 1, 51, 59, 106, 175A, 198 and 218)

The bill aims to create a new province of Bahawalpur-Janoobi Punjab out of the existing province of Punjab.

- ... **Mover's Name:** Bahramand Khan Tangi (PPPP)
- ... **Date of Introduction:** September 2, 2019
- ... **Referred to:** Standing Committee on Law and Justice

3 The National Counter Terrorism Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2019

It proposes National Counter Terrorism Authority to lay its periodical reports in the Parliament and enhance coordination through an SoP with police and other counter terrorism departments for effective counter terrorism strategy at all levels.

- ... **Mover's Name:** Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh (MQM)
- ... **Date of Introduction:** September 2, 2019
- ... **Referred to:** Standing Committee on Interior

4 The Islamabad Pure Food Authority Bill, 2019

The bill aims to establish Islamabad Pure Food Authority and ensure provision of safe, secure and hygienic food to protect health of people.

- ... **Mover's Name:** Sajjad Hussain Turi (Independent)
- ... **Date of Introduction:** September 2, 2019
- ... **Referred to:** Standing Committee on Interior

5 The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (Amendment of Articles 51 and 106)

It seeks to increase in the number of seats for Balochistan in the National Assembly from 20 to 37 and from 65 to 80 in the provincial assembly.

- ... **Mover's Name:** Sajjad Hussain Turi (Independent)
- ... **Date of Introduction:** September 2, 2019
- ... **Referred to:** Standing Committee on Law and Justice

6 The National Accountability (Amendment) Bill, 2019

It aims to amend the National Accountability Ordinance, 1999 and proposes that a case of corruption less than Rs. 500 million should be investigated by any other anti-corruption body as the NAB is supposed to deal with mega corruption cases. Moreover, it also envisages curtailing powers of NAB chairman as the power of arrest would be with the court of law and plea bargain would be through court. It also suggests that NAB personnel would not give media statements and there would be no media trial of the accused.

- ... **Mover's Name:** Farooq H. Naek (PPPP)
- ... **Date of Introduction:** September 2, 2019
- ... **Referred to:** Standing Committee on Law and Justice

7 The Regulation of Generation, Transmission and Distribution of Electric Power (Amendment) Bill, 2019

It suggests that provincial governments should be competent to name their respective representatives in the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority instead of seeking approval of the federal government on their recommendations in this regard.

- ... **Mover's Name:** Mian Raza Rabbani (PPPP)
- ... **Date of Introduction:**
- ... **Referred to:** Standing Committee on Power Division

Private Members'
Bills Introduced

8

Private Members'
Bills Deferred

2

Private Member's
Bill Withdrawn

1

Resolutions

7

8 The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (Insertion of Article 253A)

It proposes to prohibit foreigners from owning and purchasing land in Pakistan or entering into agreement which bestow on them the right to possess immovable property for more than 20 years.

Mover's Name: Mushtaq Ahhmed (JI)

Date of Introduction: September 2, 2019

Referred to: Standing Committee on Law and Justice

2.2 Resolutions:

The House adopted four resolutions appearing on the agenda which disapproved the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council Ordinance (PMDC), 2019 and demanded the government to complete the Kacchi Canal Project in Balochistan, include the subject of road safety awareness in the curriculum of educational institutions and upgrade Cricket Stadium in Abbottabad. These resolutions were sponsored by PPPP, MQM and Independent lawmakers.

Two resolutions, sponsored by JUI-F and JI lawmakers, were dropped due to their absence in the House. These resolutions were about widening of Islamabad Highway and withdrawal of 200% increase made in the gas tariff for domestic consumers in July, 2019.

A PPPP lawmaker withdrew his resolution about shifting the Headquarter of Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) from Lahore to Islamabad.

2.3 Reports

A total of 31 reports of various Committees were presented in the House while five motions were passed under Rule 194 (1) granting extension to two Standing Committees for presentation of their reports.

A report of Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination regarding the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council Bill, 2019 was withdrawn.

3 Representation and Responsiveness

This section gives statistical as well as qualitative overview of legislator's interventions in the House – Questions, Calling Attention Notices (CANs), Motions under Rule 18 or any other motions – for the oversight of government and to articulate issues of public interest and importance.

3.1 Questions

A total of 11 starred questions were listed for answers during the 4th sitting of the session. The House took up all starred questions during the proceedings while the lawmakers asked 28 supplementary questions as well for further elucidation of the answers.

Five questions were sponsored by two JI lawmakers followed by two questions by a PML-N lawmakers and one each question by lawmakers belonging to NP, PTI, PPPP and JUI-F.

Resolutions
Adopted

4

Questions

11

Calling
Attention Notices

2

MuR 218

6

Ministries/Departments

**Starred
Questions**

Water Resources	6
Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony	3
Law and Justice	1
Prime Minister's Office	1
Total	11

3.2 Calling Attention Notices

Two Calling Attention Notices (CANs) were on the list of business and one was taken up in the House. The addressed CAN, sponsored by a PTI lawmaker, was regarding lack of basic amenities in mosques and toilets at rest area or service station of Swabi interchange.

Another CAN about the imposition of GST on flour mills remained unaddressed which was sponsored by a PPPP lawmaker.

3.3 Motions

Three motions under Rule 218 were talked out which were about need and significance of creating structured linkages between the Members of Senate and their constituents, i.e. the Provincial Assemblies, non-establishment of tourist resorts in the coastal areas of Balochistan and food insecurity in the country. Eleven lawmakers debated these motions for 55 minutes.

The Chair referred another motion to the relevant committee which was about syllabus

prescribed for the Central Superior Services (CSS) examination in the country at present. Three lawmakers including the Leader of the House discussed it for 40 minutes.

A motion about structural revamping and austerity measures being taken in PIA was deferred on mover's request while another motion about Pakistan's economy was dropped due to mover's absence.

Moved by a PPPP lawmaker, the House passed a motion under Rule 126 (7) for consideration of the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in joint sitting. The bill was transmitted to the National Assembly after approval from Senate but was not passed within ninety days of its laying there.

The House also passed two motions under Rule 115 seeking withdrawal of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) Bill, 2019 and the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority Bill, 2019.

Reports

31

Points of
Order

16

Walkout

1

Protest

1

4 Order and Institutionalization

Order and institutionalization are important for an efficient and productive legislature. This section provides information about the Points of Order, Quorum and any instances of walkout, protest or boycott during the proceedings.

4.1 Points of Order

As many as 16 Points of Order (POs) were raised during the proceedings that consumed an hour and 20 minutes. Most of these POs were about shifting of former President Asif Ali Zardari from Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) hospital to jail and legislation by the government through promulgation of Presidential Ordinances.

4.2 Walkout

The entire opposition staged walkout in last sitting for eight minutes against legislation through promulgation of Presidential Ordinances and not including its sponsored resolutions on the agenda to disapprove four Ordinances.

4.3 Quorum

The quorum was identified on an occasion during the session. A PPPP lawmaker pointed out quorum in 4th sitting which led to the announcement by Chair to prorogue the session.

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.

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