# WOMEN 

## PARLIAMENTARIANS PERFORMANCE

## $2020-2021$



Trust for Democratic Education \&
Accountability (TDEA)
Free \& Fair Election Network (FAFEN)

## Methodology

The data used in this report is based on direct observation of Senate and National Assembly proceedings conducted by the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability-Free and Fair Election Network (TDEA-FAFEN) with support from Global Affairs Canada (GAC). It also includes an analyses of the agenda on 'Order of the Day' of both Houses and attempts to gauge the performance of female parliamentarians during the ten sessions (20th to 29th) of the 15th National Assembly held between March 9, 2020 and March 2, 2021, and as many sessions (298th to 307th) of the Senate held between May 12, 2020 and February 20, 2021. The section-wise details given in this report include analyses of the contribution of female lawmakers in legislation, resolutions, motions, Calling Attention Notices, adjournment motions and questions. The section on attendance of female members is based on the attendance records available on the official websites of both Houses. Furthermore, the individual performance of each woman lawmaker is available on TDEA-FAFEN's online parliamentary portal

# List of Abbreviations 

| ANP | AWAMI NATIONAL PARTY |
| :--- | :--- |
| AMLP | AWAMI MUSLIM LEAGUE PAKISTAN |
| AM | ADJOURNMENT MOTION |
| BAP | BALOCHISTAN AWAMI PARTY |
| BNP | BALOCHISTAN NATIONAL PARTY |
| CANS | CALLING ATTENTION NOTICES |
| GDA | GRAND DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE |
| IND | INDEPENDENT MEMBER |
| JUI (F) | JAMIAT ULEMA-E-ISLAM (FAZAL) |
| JWP | JAMHOORI WATTAN PARTY |
| MMAP | MUTTAHIDA MAJLIS-E-AMAL PAKISTAN |
| MQMP | MUTTAHIDA QAUMI MOVEMENT PAKISTAN |
| PkMAP | PASHTOONKHWA MILLI AWAMI PARTY |
| 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 |

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## Executive Summary

 Female Lawmakers Sponsor, 28 Percent Parliamentary Agenda during 2020-21Constituting only 20 percent of the Parliament, female lawmakers contributed 28 percent parliamentary agenda during 2020-2021. Their performance matched, or in some instances exceeded, the performance of their male colleagues in both agenda contribution and attendance. On average, each female MNA attended 76 percent Assembly sittings and sponsored eight agenda items whereas each male MNA attended 60 percent sittings and sponsored five agenda items. Similarly, each female Senator attended 67 percent sittings and sponsored three agenda items whereas each male Senator attended 60 percent sittings and sponsored four agenda items. Of 65 non-performing parliamentarians, only seven - four MNAs and three Senators - were female.

Female lawmakers - singly or jointly with other lawmakers - sponsored 33 percent ( 86 out of 260 ) private members' bills, 30 percent ( 30 out of 106) resolutions, 56 percent ( 48 out of 86 ) calling attention notices (CANs), and 27 percent ( 445 out of 1668 ) questions in National Assembly and the Senate. In addition, they also initiated 31 percent (29 out of 92 ) motions for debate on issues of public importance and 23 percent (five out of 21) proposals for amendments in the National Assembly Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business. In addition to their contribution to the agenda, female lawmakers also actively participated in the debates on scheduled business and in raising Points of Order and Matters of Public Importance.

However, despite female lawmakers' remarkable contributions to agenda, their business suffered from neglect. Only eight percent (five out of 59) of the female-sponsored private members' bills were passed while 54 percent ( 32 out of 59) of their bills stood referred to the committees after their introduction in the House. On the other hand, 12 percent ( 19 out of 154 ) male-sponsored private members' bills completed the three readings and 55 percent ( 85 out of 154) were referred to the relevant committees. Twenty-four percent of the female-sponsored bills were not taken up as compared to 14 percent male-sponsored bills which remained unaddressed. Similar was the case with female-sponsored resolutions. Only seven ( 32 percent) of the 23 female-sponsored resolutions were adopted as compared to 42 ( 57 percent) male-sponsored resolutions.

In comparison with the previous parliamentary year (2019-20), the contribution of female lawmakers to the parliamentary agenda witnessed a decline in 2020-21 from 33 percent to 28 percent. Likewise, the average attendance of female lawmakers has also decreased since last year; falling from 80 percent to 76 percent in the National Assembly, and from 75 percent to 67 percent in the Senate.

## Representation

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Currently, there are 69 female Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) - 60 on women - reserved seats, eight on general and one on a minority seat. This makes up for 20 percent of the total representation of women in a House of 342 .

## Women by Party



Women by Types of Seat


## SENATE

There are 19 female Senators - 16 on the women reserved seats, two on General Seats and one on technocrat seat. This makes up for 18 percent of the total representation in the House of Federation, which comprise 104 members. One of the woman Senator belonging to ANP resigned during last month.

Women by Party


## Women by Types of Seat



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
Total
Women Seats
60


WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT



The National Assembly and the Senate held 71 and 55 sittings, respectively, during the reporting periods. A female lawmaker in the National Assembly attended an average of $54(76 \%)$ sittings whereas her male counterparts attended an average of 42 (60\%) sittings. In the Senate, a female lawmaker attended an average of $36(67 \%)$ sittings whereas a male lawmaker attended an average of $33(60 \%$ ) sittings.

On an average, 62 lawmakers including 13 female lawmakers ( $65 \%$ of the total female membership in the Senate) and 49 male lawmakers ( $59 \%$ of the total male membership in the Senate) remained present in each sitting of Senate. Similarly, 215 lawmakers including 52 female lawmakers ( $75 \%$ of the total female membership in the NA) and 163 male lawmakers ( $60 \%$ of the total male membership in the NA) attended each National Assembly sitting on an average.

One percent decline in average attendance of female Senators and a five percent decline in average attendance of male lawmakers was marked in the Senate when compared to the average attendance of the preceding year, i.e., 2019-2020. Similarly, a comparison of the gender disaggregated performance of lawmakers for average attendance in the current year against the previous year showed a decline of four percent in the average attendance of female MNAs and a six percent decrease in the attendance of male lawmakers in the National Assembly.

A comparison between average session attendance of male and female lawmakers in the National Assembly shows that female lawmakers' attendance remained higher than male lawmakers throughout the reporting period. In fact, the difference between average male attendance and average female attendance has increased since the first session of the incumbent National Assembly. The graph in Figure 1 below shows the average attendance of male and female lawmakers in Assembly sessions held during the reporting period.

Figure 1: Average Session Attendance in National Assembly (disaggregated by gender)


A similar pattern of higher female attendance than male attendance was visible in the Senate as their remained higher almost consistently throughout the sessions.

The graph in Figure 2 shows the average attendance of male and female lawmakers in Senate sessions held during the reporting period.
Figure 2: Average Session Attendance in Senate (disaggregated by gender)


## Attendance - National Assembly







## Attendance - Senate




## 02 <br> Participation in Parliamentary Proceedings

The lawmakers perform their legislative and representative functions by initiating, debating and voting upon various parliamentary agenda. Although the Orders of the Day and parliamentary verbatim records as well as proceedings are publicly available, their voting records are not. The lawmakers' participation in parliamentary proceedings, therefore, can only be assessed through their contribution to the agenda and involvement in the debates.

Assessing the data of the last decade, as highlighted in Figure 3, reveals that female lawmakers' contribution has slowly been rising in recent years.

Figure 3: Historical Pattern of Female's Contribution to Parliamentary Agenda


Female lawmakers, who make only a fifth ( 20 percent) of parliamentary membership, contributed 28 percent of the parliamentary agenda during the reporting period. Both the National Assembly and the Senate transacted agenda comprising 2,352 interventions - 1,916 in the National Assembly and 436 in the Senate - of which female lawmakers sponsored 574 ( 25 percent) interventions on their own and 70 (three percent) jointly with their male colleagues.

Figure 4: Members' Participation in Parliamentary Proceedings


Figure 5: National Assembly Agenda Sponsorship (disaggregated by gender)


Figure 6: Senate Agenda Sponsorship (disaggregated by gender)


Female lawmakers contributed 27 percent of the National Assembly's agenda on their own and four percent of the agenda jointly with male lawmakers. In the Senate, female lawmakers contributed to 13 percent of the agenda on their own and an additional three percent jointly with their male colleagues.

Figure 7: Average agenda items per Lawmaker


Comparing the average agenda items per lawmaker, a female lawmaker in the National Assembly sponsored an average of eight agenda items against five by a male lawmaker. On the other hand, a female lawmaker in the Senate contributed an average of three agenda items against four submitted by a male lawmaker.


## National Assembly

The National Assembly's legislative agenda comprised 254 bills including 94 government-sponsored and 160 private members' bills. Government legislation was heavily dominated by male cabinet members as only seven out of 94 bills were initiated by female ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries. However, female lawmakers made a significant contribution to private members' legislation. They sponsored one third (51) of the private members' bills individually and nearly 14 percent (22) jointly with their male colleagues. Table 1 shows the disaggregation of the legislation initiated in the National Assembly by type of sponsors.

Table 1: Sponsor-wise Legislation in National Assembly

| Sponsorship | Government Bills |  | Private Bills |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Male Lawmakers | 87 | 87 | $\mathbf{1 7 4}$ |
| Female Lawmakers | 7 | 51 | $\mathbf{5 8}$ |
| Jointly by Maleand Female Lawmakers | - | 22 | $\mathbf{2 2}$ |
| Total Bills | $\mathbf{9 4}$ | $\mathbf{1 6 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 5 4}$ |

An analysis of the legislative records suggests that the bills introduced by female lawmakers faced a different fate than those introduced by male lawmakers as only seven percent (four out of 58) of the female-sponsored bills passed all three readings in the House as compared to 16 percent ( 27 out of 174) of the male sponsored bills. Twenty-five ( 43 percent) female-sponsored bills were sent to the relevant committees after introduction in the House as compared to 78 bills ( 45 percent) sponsored by male lawmakers.

On the other hand, 18 (or 31 percent) of the female-sponsored and 52 (or 30 percent) male-sponsored bills remained unaddressed despite their inclusion on the Orders of the Day multiple times. Moreover, three female-sponsored private members' bills were called out in the House but were deferred without any further proceedings. Three female-sponsored bills were rejected on the treasury's opposition and one was withdrawn by the mover. Similarly, only one of the eight bills jointly sponsored by male and female lawmakers passed all three readings while 14 were referred to the relevant committees after their introduction in the House. The female-sponsored bills were related to human rights, education, health, economy and media affairs.

Table 2 shows the status of private members' bills disaggregated by the type of sponsors.

Table 2: Sponsor-wise Legislation in National Assembly

| Status of Legislative Proposals | Bills Sponsored by Female Lawmakers | Bills Sponsored by Male Lawmakers | Bills Sponsored Jointly by Female and Male Lawmakers | Total Bills |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Deferred | 3 | 10 | - | 13 |
| Introduced/Referred to Committee | 29 | 78 | 14 | 121 |
| Not Taken Up | 18 | 52 | 3 | 73 |
| Passed | 4 | 27 | 1 | 32 |
| Rejected | 3 | 6 | 3 | 12 |
| Withdrawn | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Total | 58 | 174 | 22 | 254 |

Of the 69 female MNAs, 23 ( 33 percent) contributed to the Lower House's legislative agenda. These lawmakers belonged to six parliamentary parties - 11 to PTI, six to PML-N, three to PPPP, and one each to MQMP, BAP and MMAP.

## Legislations - National Assembly


03 Legislation


## Legislation - Senate

The Senate's legislative agenda comprised 122 bills including 22 government-sponsored and 100 sponsored by private members. Like in the National Assembly, male cabinet members dominated the government legislative business in the Senate. Female lawmakers sponsored 11 of the private members' bills on their own. Table 3 shows the disaggregation of legislation initiated in the Upper House by the type of sponsor.

## Table 3: Legislation in Upper House (Disaggregated by sponsor)

| Sponsorship | Government Bills | Private Bills | Total Bills |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Male Lawmakers | 22 | 87 | $\mathbf{1 0 9}$ |
| Female Lawmakers | - | 11 | $\mathbf{1 1}$ |
| Jointly by Male and Female Lawmakers | - | 2 | $\mathbf{2}$ |
| Total Bills | $\mathbf{2 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 2 2}$ |

The House passed only four (36 percent) of the female-sponsored bills while five of their bills are pending with the standing committees or awaiting motions for second reading. One of the bills sponsored by a female was rejected and another was withdrawn. The female-sponsored bills were related to rights of women workers and persons with disabilities, prevention of domestic violence, health and education sectors.

On the other hand, male-sponsored private members' legislation includes 19 ( 17 percent) bills that passed all three readings while 40 ( 37 percent) remained pending after the first reading. Following table shows the number of bills sponsored by male and female lawmakers disaggregated by their statuses.

## Table 4: Status of Sponsored Bills

| Status of Legislative Proposals | Sponsored by <br> Female <br> Lawmakers | Bills Sponsored <br> by Male <br> Lawmakers | Bills Sponsored Jointly <br> by Female and Male <br> Lawmakers |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Introduced/Referred to Committee | 5 | 64 | $\mathbf{c}$ |  |
| Total Bills |  |  |  |  |
| Passed | 4 | 19 | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{7 0}$ |
| Rejected | 1 | 8 | - | $\mathbf{2 4}$ |
| Withdrawn | $\mathbf{1}$ | 5 | - | $\mathbf{9}$ |
| Not Taken Up | - | 5 | - | $\mathbf{6}$ |
| Deferred | - | 8 | - | $\mathbf{5}$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 9}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{8}$ |

Of the 20 female Senators, 11 ( 55 percent) contributed to the Upper House's legislative agenda. These lawmakers belonged to four parliamentary parties - four to PPPP, three to PTI, two to PML-N, one to PkMAP while one legislative proposal was
sponsored by an independent lawmaker.
Following Infograph contains the list of Senators who contributed to the legislative agenda along with the number of bills they sponsored.



Through resolutions, lawmakers express an opinion, make recommendations, or covey a message on a specific and importantissue.

## National Assembly

Female lawmakers sponsored 22 ( 42 percent) out of 52 resolutions which were part of the Lower House's agenda during the reporting period. They partnered nine resolutions with their male colleagues while 13 were initiated on their own.

More female-sponsored resolutions were ignored than male-sponsored resolutions in the House. Only one out of 13 femalesponsored resolutionswere adopted as compared to 13 (43 percent) male-sponsored resolutions (Table 5).

Table 5: Resolutions Submitted by Lawmakers

| Status | No. of Resolutions <br> Sponsored by <br> Female Lawmakers | No. of Resolutions <br> Sponsored by Male <br> Lawmakers | No. of Resolutions Jointly <br> Sponsored by Male and Female <br> Lawmakers |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Adopted | 1 | 13 | 6 |
| Not Taken Up | 12 | 17 | 3 |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 3}$ | $\mathbf{3 0}$ | $\mathbf{9}$ |

These lawmakers belonged to four parliamentary parties - four to PPPP, three to PTI, two to PML-N, one to PkMAP while one legislative proposal was sponsored by an independentlawmaker.

Of 69 female MNAs, 23 ( 33 percent) contributed resolutions to the Assembly's agenda. These lawmakers belonged to seven political parties - eight to PPPP, seven to PTI, four to PML-N and one each to MQMP, MMAP, GDA and BNP-M. Femalesponsored resolutions encompassed the issues related to governance, energy crisis, pubic funds management, health reforms, water crisis and its management, tax reforms, education reforms, Indian atrocities in Kashmir and affairs related to parliament.



## Resolutions - Senate

Female lawmakers sponsored ten (19 percent) out of 54 resolutions in the Senate during the reporting period. They initiated nine of these resolutions on their own and one jointly with their male colleagues. All the female-sponsored resolutions were initiated as private members' resolutions while one was jointly moved by treasury and private members.
As indicated in Table 6, the House adopted six out of nine female-sponsored resolutions while three were not taken up. The sole co-sponsored resolution by male and female lawmakers was adopted. On the other hand, 29 out of 44 male-sponsored resolutions were adopted, three were deferred, one was withdrawn, two were referred to committees and nine remained unaddressed.
Table 6: Resolutions Sponsored by Lawmakers

| Status | No. of Resolutions <br> Sponsored by Female <br> Lawmakers | No. of Resolutions <br> Sponsored by Male <br> Lawmakers | No. of Resolutions Jointly <br> Sponsored by Male and <br> Female Lawmakers |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Adopted | 6 | 29 | 1 |
| Referred to Committee |  | 2 | - |
| Not Taken Up | 3 | 9 | - |
| Withdrawn | - | 1 | - |
| Deferred | - | 3 | - |
| Total | $\mathbf{9}$ | $\mathbf{4 4}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ |

These lawmakers belonged to four parliamentary parties - four to PPPP, three to PTI, two to PML-N, one to PkMAP while one legislative proposal was sponsored by an independent lawmaker.

Of the 20 female Senators, six ( 30 percent) contributed to the Senate agenda in the form of resolutions as two of them belonged to PPPP, one each to MQM, PTI, ANP and an independent lawmaker.
Following infograph shows Female-sponsored resolutions focused on the issues of juveniles' rights, governance, media, policing affairs and education.



The National Assembly and the Senate are empowered by the Constitution to frame their own Rules of Procedure to govern their proceedings. These rules are evolutionary and can be amended from time to time.

## National Assembly

Lawmakers initiated 21 proposals for amendments to the Assembly's Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, 2007. As many as four of these proposals came from two female lawmakers belonging to the PPPP while an amendment was moved by two female lawmakers - one each from PPPP and MMAP - jointly with their male colleagues.

Sixteen amendments were sponsored by male lawmakers belonging to PML-N and PPP either individually or jointly. The House adopted three amendments which were about the recitation of 'Hadith' after the recitation from the Holy Quran followed by its Urdu translation at the commencement of each sitting.

The details of the female-sponsored proposals for amendments are provided below:


Status: Not Taken Up

## Public Petition

The amendment sought to include a new Rule 295 in the National Assembly's Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, 2007 enabling citizens to file petitions to the Speaker on matters of public importance. The suggested rule includes the procedure for admissibility of the petitions, their examination and decisionstaken upon them.

Summoning arrested member to attend Assembly's sitting or Committee's meeting:
The amendment was sought in Rule 108 (1) of the Rules of Procedure to ensure the presence of an Assembly member in the sitting of the Assembly or meeting of a committee. It says, "the Speaker or Chairman of a Committee shall summon a member in custody on the charge of bailable or non-bailable offence to attend a sitting or sittings of the Assembly or meeting of a Committee of which he is a member."


Status: Not Taken Up

## Recommendations of Public Account Committee:

The amendment sought to include new sub-rule (4A) after sub-rule (4) of Rule 203. The new sub-rule (4A) says that the recommendations of the Committee shall be binding and the Ministry or Division or Department concerned shall apprise the Committee of the action taken on the recommendations of the Committee within the prescribed period.

## Amendment to the Rules - Senate

No amendment was moved in the Senate during the reporting period.


Calling Attention Notice (CAN) is a parliamentary tool that is meant to draw the government's attention towards issues of public importance. The lawmakers may move a notice to call the attention of a minister to any matter of urgent public importance and the minister shall make a brief statement on it. The rules of procedure in the National Assembly also read that CANs shall lapse if they are not taken up during the sitting for which they have been given. In the Senate, they stand lapsed at the end of the week for which they have been given, if not taken up by the House.

## National Assembly

Female lawmakers contributed 58 percent of the 72 CANs in the National Assembly. They submitted 33 ( 46 percent) CANs jointly with their male colleagues and nine ( 12 percent) on their own. Eight out of nine CANs sponsored by female lawmakers on their own were taken up during the proceedings while 16 out of the 30 male-sponsored CANs were addressed. Table 7 shows the number of CANs submitted by male and female lawmakers disaggregated by their status.

Table 7: CANs submitted by lawmakers (disaggregated by status)

| Status | No. of CANs Sponsored by <br> Female Lawmakers | No. of CANs Sponsored by <br> Male Lawmakers | No. of CANs Jointly Sponsored by <br> Male and Female Lawmakers |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Addressed | 8 | 18 | 18 |
| Not Taken Up | 1 | 12 | 14 |
| Deferred | - | - | 1 |
| Total | $\mathbf{9}$ | $\mathbf{3 0}$ | $\mathbf{3 3}$ |

Around 39 percent of female lawmakers (27 out of 69) utilized CANs to seek government response on various issues. Eleven of them belonged to PPPP, eight to PTI, five to PML-N, two to MMAP and one to MQMP.

Their notices were addressed to 19 ministries and sought their responses on various issues of public importance such as governance, health, trade and economy, agriculture, water management, tourism, inflation, human rights and energy crisis. Following infograph contains is the list of female who contributed to the agenda using CANs.



## Calling Attention Notices - Senate

In the Senate, female lawmakers were contributors or sponsors of six (43 percent) of the 14 CANs included in the Upper House's agenda. They submitted five ( 36 percent) CANs jointly with their male colleagues and one on their own. The only CAN sponsored by a female lawmaker on her own was addressed during the proceedings while all eight male-sponsored CANs were also addressed. One CAN jointly sponsored by Female with their male colleagues was not taken up.

Table 8 shows the number of CANs submitted by male and female lawmakers disaggregated by their status.

Table 8: CANs Submitted by Lawmakers (disaggregated by Status)

| Status | $\begin{array}{c}\text { No. of CANs Sponsored by } \\ \text { Female Lawmakers }\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c}\text { No. of CANs Sponsored by } \\ \text { Male Lawmakers }\end{array}$ |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | \(\left.\begin{array}{c}No. of CANs Jointly Sponsored by <br>


Male and Female Lawmakers\end{array}\right]\)| Addressed |
| :--- |

Of the 20 Female Senators, four ( 20 percent) utilized CANs to perform their parliamentary duties. They belonged to PPPP (two), PML-N (one) and an independent member.


Their notices were addressed to four ministers of the government and sought their response on various issues of public importance mainly related to the increase in prices of medicines, FATF grey list, COVID-19 vaccination plan of the government, crash of plane in Karachi and authority given to the Tiger Force to conduct price checking.


Lawmakers may scrutinize government policies, statements or issues of public importance in the Parliament through Motion under Rule 218 in the Senate and Motion under Rule 259 in the National Assembly. These motions are included in the parliamentary agenda on private members' day. On government days, the lawmakers may move for adjournment of the proceedings to discuss an urgent matter of public importance.

Female lawmakers in the Senate submitted eight Motions under Rule 218 individually and three in collaboration with male lawmakers. Similarly, female lawmakers in the National Assembly sponsored 16 Motions under Rule 259 on their own and partnered with their male colleagues for one.

The National Assembly considered one adjournment motion on the agenda throughout the reporting period which was sponsored by a PPPP lawmaker jointly with her three male colleagues. The adjournment motion was regarding the increase in electricity prices.

In Senate, two adjournment motions were on the agenda of which one was sponsored by female lawmakers along with their male colleagues.

## National Assembly

## Motions Under Rule 259

A total of 57 Motions under Rule (MUR) 259 were part of the agenda in the National Assembly during the reported period to debate various matters of public importance. As many as 51 of these motions were initiated by private members while the remaining six by the ministers. The motions sponsored by female lawmakers were mainly related to the economic sector, governance, issues of government employees, education, climate change, the situation after COVID-19, rights of disabled persons, infrastructure development and judicial reforms. All of these motions sponsored by female lawmakers were not taken up while the two moved jointly with male colleagues were taken up and addressed.

Table 9: MURs initiated by Lawmakers

| Status | No. of MUR 259 Sponsored <br> by Female Lawmakers | No. of MUR 259 Sponsored <br> by Male Lawmakers | No. of MUR 259 Jointly <br> Sponsored by Male and <br> Female Lawmakers |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Addressed | - | 3 | 2 |
| Not Taken Up | 16 | 36 | - |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 6}$ | $\mathbf{3 9}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ |

Nine ( 13 percent) female lawmakers exercised their right to raise public importance issues through Motions under Rule 259. Five of these lawmakers belonged to PPPP, three to PTI and one to MQMP.


## Motions - Senate

## Motions Under Rule 218

Senate agenda included 35 Motions under Rule 218, of which eight were individually sponsored by female lawmakers and three jointly sponsored by female and male lawmakers. In the Senate, through Motion under Rule 218, female Senators raised issues related to agriculture, economy, health sector, policy of federal government against coronavirus pandemic, two-year performance of the government and promulgation of Presidential Ordinances for legislation.

Table 10: MURs initiated by Lawmakers

| Status | No. of MUR 218 Sponsored <br> by Female Lawmakers | No. of MUR 218 Sponsored <br> by Male Lawmakers | No. of MUR 218 Jointly <br> Sponsored by Male and <br> Women Lawmakers |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Debated | 4 | 13 | 3 |
| Not Taken Up | 2 | 7 | - |
| Deferred | 2 | 1 | - |
| Dropped | - | 2 | - |
| Referred to Committee | - | $\mathbf{1}$ | - |
| Total | $\mathbf{8}$ | $\mathbf{2 4}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ |

In the Senate, 25 percent (two) female-sponsored Motions under Rule 218 were not considered for any further action as compared to 29 percent (seven) of male-sponsored motions. Moreover, all three motions co-sponsored by male and female lawmakers were debated in the House.

As many as 12 female lawmakers exercised their right to raise public importance issues through Motions under Rule 218.



## National Assembly

Only one adjournment motion was part of the agenda of the National Assembly throughout the reporting period. It was sponsored by a PPPP female lawmaker jointly with her three male colleagues. The adjournment motion was regarding the increase in electricity prices.


## Senate

Two adjournment motions were part of the agenda during the reporting period. One adjournment motion was sponsored by a male lawmaker individually while female Senators submitted an adjournment motion in collaboration with their male colleagues to discuss the hike in prices of medicines, electricity and basic food items.


## 09 <br> Questions



Questions allow lawmakers to conduct oversight of the executive's performance by seeking information from the ministries. Female lawmakers kept an effective check on the executive by asking 1459 questions in the National Assembly and 209 in the Senate

## National Assembly

In the National Assembly, around 29 percent of the questions were submitted by female lawmakers. The House received the replies from the government on a majority of these questions ( 323 or 77 percent) while around 20 percent of the questions remained unanswered and three percent were transferred to the next Rota day. Table 11 provides the number of questions submitted and addressed.

Table 11: Questions Submitted by Lawmakers in National Assembly

| Status | No. of Questions Submitted <br> by Female Lawmakers |  | No. of Questions Submitted <br> by Male Lawmakers |  | Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fully Answered | 323 | 758 | $\mathbf{1 0 8 1}$ |  |  |
| Reply Not Received | 82 | 259 | $\mathbf{3 4 1}$ |  |  |
| Transfer to Next Rota Day | 12 | 25 | $\mathbf{3 7}$ |  |  |
| Total | $\mathbf{4 1 7}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 4 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 4 5 9}$ |  |  |

As many as 33 ( 48 percent) out of the 69 female lawmakers exercised their right to ask questions. Twelve of them belonged to PPPP, nine each to PTI and PML-N and one each to BAP, MMAP and MQMP.

Table 12: Questions Submitted (Disaggregated by Political Parties)

| Party | No. of Questions Submitted by Members | No. of Members who submitted Questions |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| BAP | 3 | 1 |
| MMA | 15 | 1 |
| MQM | 1 | 1 |
| PML-N | 89 | 9 |
| PPPP | 209 | 12 |
| PTI | 100 | 9 |
| Total | $\mathbf{4 1 7}$ | $\mathbf{3 3}$ |






## Senate - Questions

In the Senate, around 14 percent of the questions were submitted by female lawmakers. The House received the replies from the government on most of these questions ( 26 or 93 percent) while replies from the concerned government departments were not received on two (seven percent) of the women-sponsored questions. The proportion of answered male-sponsored questions during this period was around 90 percent (163 questions).

Table 13 provides the number of questions submitted and addressed.
Table 13: Questions Submitted by Lawmakers in Senate

| Status |  | No. of Questions Submitted by <br> Female Lawmakers | No. of <br> Questions Submitted by <br> Male Lawmakers |  | Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fully Answered | 26 | 163 | $\mathbf{1 8 9}$ |  |  |
| Reply Not Received | 2 | 12 | $\mathbf{1 4}$ |  |  |
| Transfer to Next Rota Day | - | 6 | $\mathbf{6}$ |  |  |
| Total | $\mathbf{2 8}$ | $\mathbf{1 8 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 9}$ |  |  |

A many as eight ( 40 percent) out of the 20 female lawmakers exercised their right to ask questions. Three of them belonged to PPPP followed by independent (two), PTI, PML-N and MQM P (one each). Female Senators belonging to PPPP asked 11 questions, PTI (10), independent(4), PML-N (2) and MQM (one).

Table 14 : Questions Submitted (Disaggregated by Political Party)

| Party | No. of Questions Submitted by Members | No. of Members who submitted Questions |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| PPPP | 11 | 3 |
| PTI | 10 | 1 |
| IND | 4 | 2 |
| PML-N | 2 | 1 |
| MQM | 1 | 1 |
| Total | $\mathbf{2 8}$ | $\mathbf{8}$ |




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