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THE SENATE OF PAKISTAN - FIFTEENTH PARLIAMENTARY YEAR

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

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ABBREVIATIONS

AJIP	Awami Jamhoori Ittehad Pakistan
ANP	Awami National Party
APML	All Pakistan Muslim League
AMLPP	Awami Muslim League Pakistan
BISP	Benazir Income Support Program
BNP	Balochistan National Party
CANs	Calling Attention Notices
CDA	Capital Development Authority
FATA	The Federally Administered Tribal Areas
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
IND	Independent Member
JI	Jamaat-e-Islami
JUI-F	Jamiat-e-Ulema-Islam (Fazlur Rehman)
MQM	Muttahida Qaumi Movement
MUR	Motion under Rule
NP	National Party
NPP	National Peoples Party
PKMAP	Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
PML-F	Pakistan Muslim League (Functional)
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)
PML-Z	Pakistan Muslim League (Zia-ul-Haq Shaheed)
PPPP	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
QWP-S	Qaumi Watan Party (Sherpao)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

15TH PARLIAMENTARY YEAR: SENATE STANDS FOR PARLIAMENTARY SUPREMACY, INTRA-INSTITUTIONAL DIALOGUE

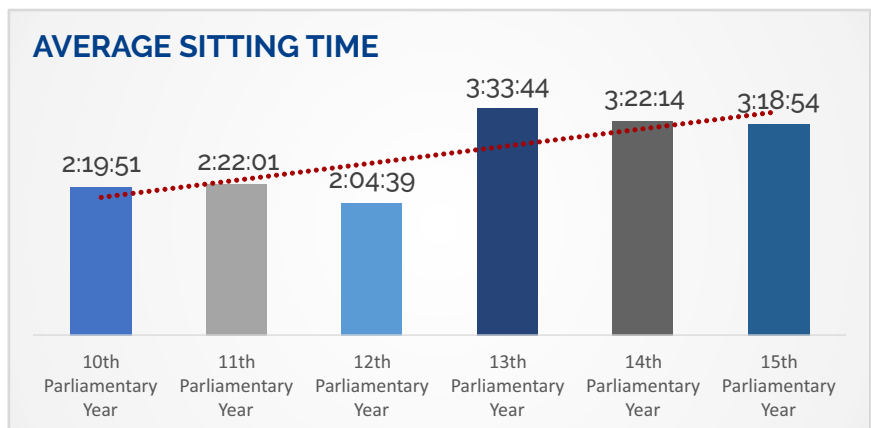
During the fifteenth parliamentary year ending in March 11, 2018, the Senate set outstanding benchmarks of punctuality, efficiency and responsiveness, critically intervening in issues of national importance through quality debates and impactful legislation. Under the visionary leadership of the outgoing Chairman Raza Rabbani, the House of Federation contributed towards consolidation of democracy in Pakistan by allowing debates and discussions on matters as sensitive as balance of power among the organs of state, civil-military relationship and the role of intelligence agencies in an effort to assert the constitutional supremacy of parliament.

In an otherwise politically tumultuous year that witnessed an increasing judicial scrutiny of democratic and political processes, the Senate played a stabilizing role through its efforts to open intra-institutional dialogues and repeated assertions for the need of negotiations among powerful political actors and intuitions to develop unanimity of views on the directions that the state must take. The unprecedented briefing to the Senate Committee of the Whole by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) was perhaps part of the same effort.

The Senate or the House of Federation also set efficiency standards for its sister legislatures by addressing an unprecedented 98% of its scheduled business and optimally using the proceedings for its core duties of

legislation, executive oversight and public representation. In 15 sessions comprising 105 sittings, the House approved 50 bills, including two constitutional amendments that provided for extension of military courts for two more years and reallocation of the National Assembly seats among federating units on the basis of provisional census results. The Elections Act, 2017, which reformed and consolidated eight separate election laws, was also passed during the year.

Other important government legislation included reforms in the criminal justice system providing for compensation of litigation costs, institutionalization of alternate dispute resolution mechanisms, witness protection, strict punishments for sale of obscene objects, decriminalization of suicide, expeditious disposal of law suits and increase in the blood money (diyat). The House also legislated on the right to information, rights of transgendered persons, whistleblower protection, climate change and institutional reforms. In addition, the House



adopted 69 resolutions making recommendations to the government on issues concerning foreign affairs, economy, internal security, education, health and others.

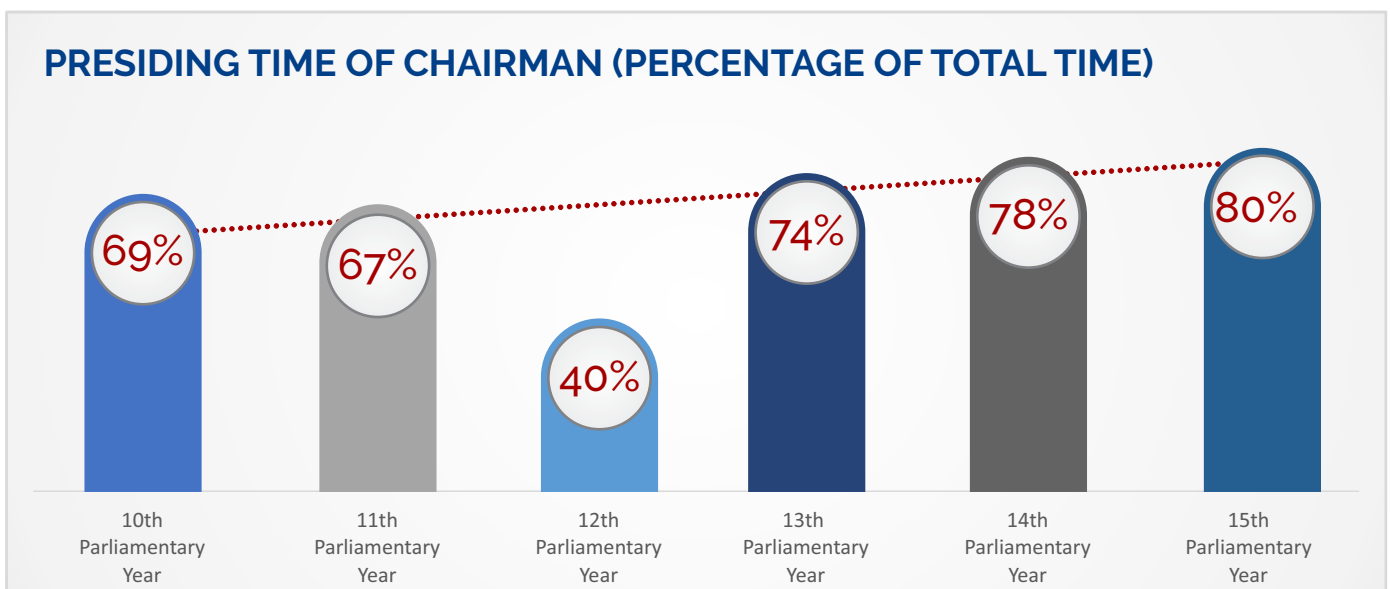
The lawmakers kept a close vigil on the executive by raising 1,538 questions, 452 Matters of Public Importance, 112 Calling Attention Notices, 117 Adjournment Motions and as many Motions under Rule 218. Various standing, functional, select and special committees of the House also deliberated in length on issues referred to them, including the legislative proposals and presented 234 reports to the House. The House witnessed only two instances of quorum identification and six instances of walkouts or protests throughout the year.

The end of 15th parliamentary year also marks the completion of Senator Raza Rabbani's term as the Chairman Senate. Under his leadership, the Senate enacted overarching regulatory reforms to improve its productivity and quality of work. The House introduced meaningful changes in its Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business reforming the legislative procedure, mechanisms to hold government accountable to the elected representatives and devising new processes enabling citizens to connect to the parliament. The reforms in the Senate rules allowed the citizens to file public petitions to the House on issues of public importance and concerning the

affairs of the federation. The Senate committees were also empowered to scrutinize the development budgets of their relevant ministries. In addition, the Senate got representation in the Public Accounts Committee that was previously consisted of the members of the National Assembly.

Between 2015 and 2018, the House held record 296 sittings which is 27% more than the number of sittings held during the preceding three years. The average duration of the sittings increased from 2 hours and 19 minutes in 10th parliamentary year to three hours and 18 minutes in 15th parliamentary year. The agenda transaction also tripled over the last three years. On average, each Order of the Day comprised 14 agenda items during the 15th parliamentary year as compared to five agenda items per sitting during the 12th parliamentary year.

In another welcome change from the past practices, Chairman Rabbani ensured that the House sittings start on the scheduled time. The average delay in the commencement of proceedings reduced from 46 minutes per sitting to only four minutes per sitting. Unlike the past, the House did not take any recess-month during the past three years. Between 2012 and 2015, the Senate took four no-session months.



خلاصہ

پندرہواں پارلیمانی سال: قانون کی بالادستی اور جمہوری استحکام

سینیٹ کا طرہ امتیاز رہے

- ایوان نے ایجنڈے کے 98 فیصد امور نمٹائے۔
- رضاربانی کی قیادت میں سینیٹ قواعد اور کاروائی میں دور رس اصلاحات کی گئیں۔

اسلام آباد، ۱۱ مارچ ۲۰۱۸: سینیٹ کا پندرہواں سال پاکستان کی دیگر قانون ساز اسمبلیوں کے لیے پارلیمانی کارکردگی کی عمدہ مثالیں چھوڑتا ہوا ۱۱ مارچ ۲۰۱۸ کو اپنے اختتام کو پہنچا۔ اس عرصے میں سینیٹ نے اہم قومی معاملات پر جامع مباحثوں اور موثر قانون سازی کے ذریعے اپنے فرائض بخوبی سرانجام دیے۔ سبکدوش چیئرمین رضاربانی کی قیادت میں وفاق کی زنجیر سبھے جانے والے پارلیمان کے ایوان بالائے جمہوریت کے استحکام اور پارلیمان کی بالادستی کو یقینی بنانے میں اہم کردار ادا کیا۔ اس دوران ایوان میں ریاستی اداروں کے اختیارات میں توازن پیدا کرنے، سیاسی و عسکری تعلقات اور خفیہ اداروں کے سیاست میں کردار جیسے حساس موضوعات کو اکثر زیر بحث لایا گیا جو کہ پارلیمانی روایت میں ایک نئے باب کا آغاز ہے۔

جہاں ایک جانب گذشتہ سال سیاسی گہما گہمی اور جمہوری و سیاسی امور میں بڑھتے ہوئے عدالتی اثر و رسوخ کا سال تھا وہیں اس دوران سینیٹ نے اداروں کے درمیان با مقصد مذاکرات کے لیے اپنی کوششیں جاری رکھیں تاکہ ریاستی شرکت داروں کے درمیان ملک کے مستقبل کی سمت طے کرنے کے حوالے سے اتفاق رائے پیدا کیا جاسکے۔ اسی سال کے دوران چیف اسٹاف پہلی بار سینیٹ کی دعوت پر کسی پارلیمانی فورم کے سامنے قومی سلامتی پر بریفنگ دینے کے لیے حاضر ہوئے۔

سینیٹ نے پندرہویں پارلیمانی سال کے دوران اپنے مقررہ امور نمٹنا کرنی پارلیمانی تاریخ رقم کی اور پارلیمانی اجلاسوں کے دوران بے نتیجہ بحثوں پر وقت ضائع کرنے کی بجائے موثر قانون سازی، حکومتی نگرانی اور عوامی نمائندگی کی عمدہ مثال قائم کی۔ اس سال سینیٹ کے ۱۱۵ اجلاس منعقد کیے گئے جو ۱۰۵ نشستوں پر مشتمل تھے۔ اس دوران ایوان نے ۵۰ قانونی مسودات کی منظوری دی جن میں دو سینیٹ ترمیم بھی شامل تھیں۔ سینیٹ میں یہ ترمیم فوجی عدالتوں کو دو سال کی توسیع فراہم کرنے اور نئی مردم شماری کے مطابق وفاق کی اکائیوں کے درمیان قومی اسمبلی کی نشستوں کی از سر نو تقسیم کے لیے کی گئی تھیں۔ اسی سال انتخابی اصلاحات والا نیا انتخابی قانون الیکشن ایکٹ ۲۰۱۷ بھی طویل بحث و تجویز کے بعد منظور کیا گیا۔

مزید برآں، ایوان بالائے فوجداری قوانین میں کئی ترمیم بھی منظور کیں جن کا مقصد سستے اور تیز تر انصاف کی فراہمی، جھگڑوں کے تصفیے کے لیے عدالتوں کے متبادل نظام کا قیام، گواہان کا تحفظ، فحش مواد کی ترسیل کی سزاؤں کو مزید سخت بنانا، خودکشی کو جرم کی بجائے بیماری کا درجہ دینا اور دیت کی رقم میں اضافہ کرنا تھا۔ اس کے علاوہ معلومات کی فراہمی کے حق، خواجہ سراؤں کے حقوق کے تحفظ، بدعنوانی کی اطلاع دینے والوں کے تحفظ، ماحولیاتی تبدیلیوں اور ادارہ جاتی اصلاحات کے حوالے سے بھی قانون سازی کی گئی۔ ایوان بالائے اس سال کے دوران ۶۹ قراردادوں کی منظوری بھی دی جن میں حکومت کو خارجہ امور، معیشت، داخلی استحکام، تعلیم اور صحت جیسے معاملات پر سفارشات

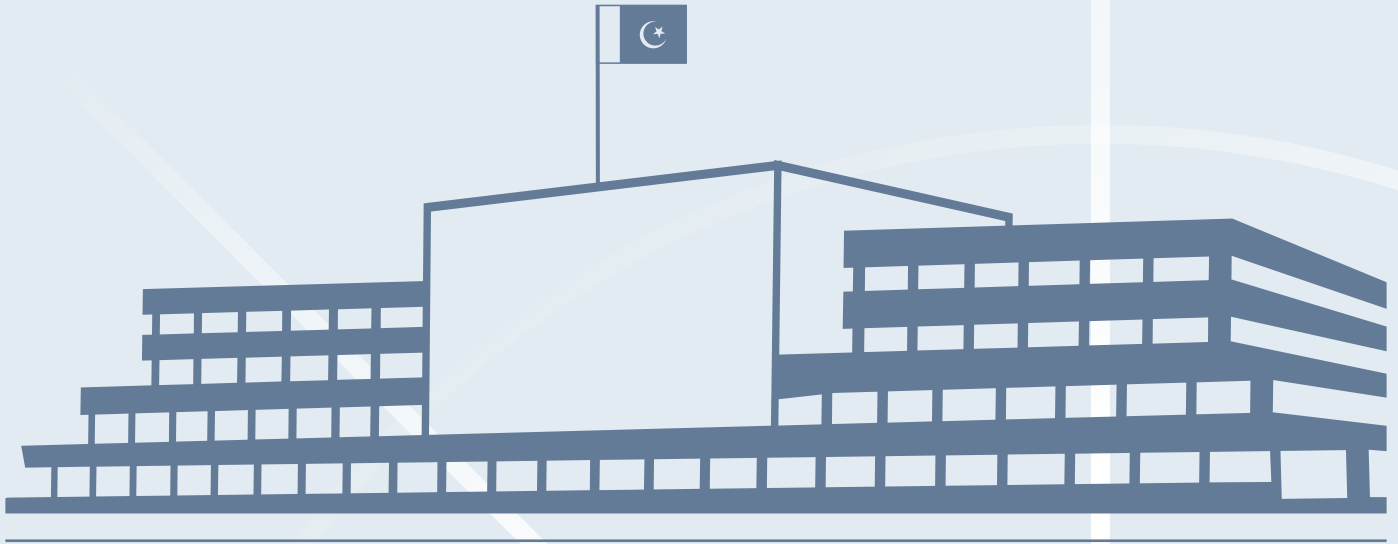
پیش کی گئی تھیں۔

اراکین سینیٹ نے پندرہویں سال کے دوران عوامی مسائل کی نمائندگی اور حکومتی کارکردگی کی نگرانی کے لیے ۱۵۳۸ سوالات پوچھے، ۴۵۲ عوامی اہمیت کے معاملات پر بات کی، ۱۱۲ توجہ دلاؤ نوٹس پیش کیے نیز ۱۱ تحریک التوا اور اتنی ہی تحریک زیر ضابطہ ۲۱۸ پیش کیں۔ ایوان کی قائمہ کمیٹیوں، فنکشنل کمیٹیوں اور خصوصی کمیٹیوں نے بھی نمایاں کارکردگی کا مظاہرہ کرتے ہوئے ۲۳۴ رپورٹیں ایوان میں پیش کیں جن میں ایوان کی جانب سے بھجوائے گئے قانونی مسودات اور دیگر امور پر کمیٹی کی سفارشات شامل تھیں۔ پندرہویں پارلیمانی سال میں دوسرے کورم کی کمی کی نشاندہی کی گئی جبکہ ایوان سے احتجاجی واک آؤٹ کے چھ واقعات پیش آئے۔

پندرہویں پارلیمانی سال کے اختتام کے ساتھ ہی سینیٹر رضاربانی بھی چیئر مین سینیٹ کے عہدے سے سبکدوش ہو رہے ہیں۔ ان کی تین سالہ قیادت کے دور میں ایوان بالا میں کئی اصلاحات کی گئیں جن کی بدولت ایوان کی کارکردگی اور کام کے معیار میں واضح بہتری مشاہدہ میں آئی۔ ایوان نے اپنے قواعد و ضوابط میں تبدیلیاں کرتے ہوئے نہ صرف قانون سازی اور حکومتی نگرانی کے طریقہ کار کو موثر بنایا بلکہ شہریوں کے سینیٹ سے براہ راست رابطہ کے لیے با معنی طریقہ بھی وضع کیا گیا۔ قواعد میں ترامیم کی بدولت اب شہری انسانی حقوق اور وفاقی حکومت و پارلیمان سے متعلق امور پر براہ راست سینیٹ میں عوامی پیشکشیں جمع کر سکتے ہیں جن پر سینیٹ کی جانب سے کارروائی بھی کی جاتی ہے۔ اسی طرح سینیٹ کی قائمہ کمیٹیوں کو اپنی متعلقہ وزارت کے ترقیاتی بجٹ پر نظر ثانی اور اس میں سفارشات تجویز کرنے کے اختیارات بھی دیے گئے ہیں۔ رضاربانی کی صدر نشینی ہی کے دور میں پبلک اکاؤنٹس کمیٹی میں سینیٹ کو بھی نمائندگی دی گئی۔ اسی دور میں سینیٹ کے اختیارات اور کردار کو وسیع کرنے سے متعلق مشاورت کا بھی آغاز ہوا۔

۲۰۱۵ سے ۲۰۱۸ کے اس عرصے میں سینیٹ کی ۲۹۶ نشستیں منعقد ہوئی ہیں جو کہ ۲۰۱۲ سے ۲۰۱۵ کے تین سالوں کے دوران منعقدہ نشستوں سے ۲ فیصد زیادہ ہیں۔ نشستوں کی تعداد میں اضافے کے ساتھ ساتھ ان کے دورانیے میں بھی خاطر خواہ اضافہ دیکھنے میں آیا اور نشستوں کا اوسط دورانیہ گذشتہ دور کے دو گھنٹے ۱۹ منٹ سے بڑھ کر تین گھنٹے ۱۸ منٹ ہو گیا۔ رضاربانی کے عہد میں ماضی کی نسبت ایوان کے ایجنڈے میں تین گنا اضافہ ہوا۔ گذشتہ دور میں ہر نشست میں اوسطاً پانچ امور ایجنڈے پر شامل ہوتے تھے جبکہ گذشتہ تین سالوں میں یہ اوسط بڑھ کر چودہ امور فی نشست ہو گئی۔

ماضی کے برعکس چیئر مین رضاربانی نے ایوان کی کارروائی کو طے شدہ وقت پر شروع کرنے کی احسن روایت کا بھی آغاز کیا اور تین سال اسے بخوبی نبھایا۔ ۲۰۱۲ سے ۲۰۱۵ کے دوران اوسطاً ہر نشست ۴۶ منٹ کی تاخیر سے شروع ہو کرتی تھی جبکہ یہی اوسط ۲۰۱۵ سے ۲۰۱۸ کے دوران محض چار منٹ فی نشست رہ گئی۔ اس عرصے میں سینیٹ کے اجلاسوں میں تسلسل بھی دیکھنے میں آیا۔ ماضی کے پارلیمانی ادوار میں اجلاسوں میں مہینے بھر کا وقفہ معمول کی بات تھی۔ تاہم رضاربانی کے بطور چیئر مین چھتیس ماہ میں ہر مہینے ایوان بالا کے اجلاس ہوتے رہے اور کسی مہینے میں وقفہ نہیں کیا گیا۔



PROCEEDINGS DURATION, ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

This section gives the details of the schedule and duration of sessions as well as the members' attendance, maintenance of quorum and participation of members.

It also reviews the presence of key members – Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition, Speaker and Deputy Speaker – and the time they spent on the floor of the House.

1

Total Sessions

15

Total Sittings

105

Total Duration

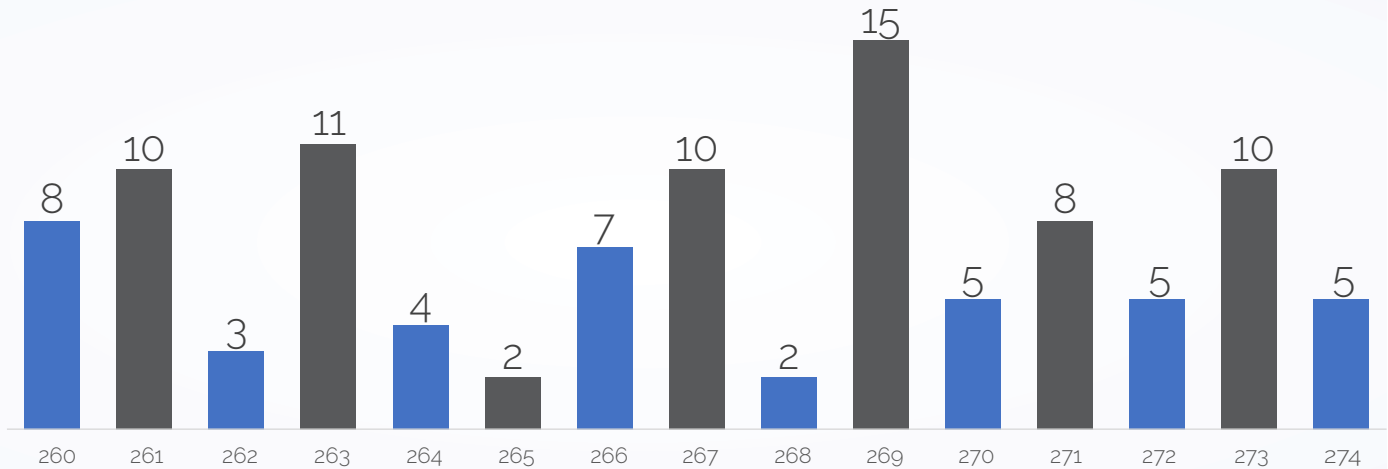
348

Hours and 4 minutes

DURATION AND ATTENDANCE

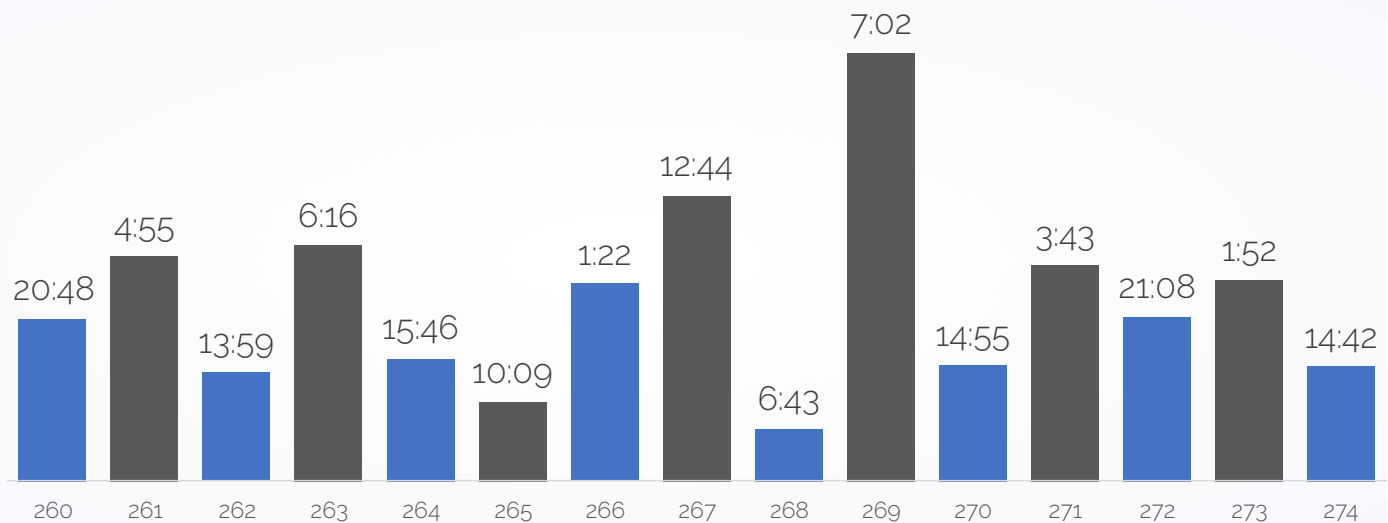
The Senate convened 15 sessions, comprising 105 sittings during the 15th parliamentary year. The House had 135 working days during 2017-18 that include the actual sitting days, joint sittings of the Parliament and the days when there were no sittings held. However, more than two consecutive off-days are not counted as working days. The cumulative duration of the proceedings during the reporting year remained 348 hours and four minutes.

SESSIONS AND SITTINGS



The Senate Chairman was the most regular amongst his colleagues during the year. He attended 100 (95%) out of the 105 sittings and presided over 278 hours and 18 minutes (80%) of the proceedings. On the other hand, the Deputy Chairman attended only 42 (40%) sittings and chaired 27 hours and 49 minutes (8%) of the proceedings. In the absence of both the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, the members of the Panel of Presiding Officers presided over the proceedings for 29 hours and 32 minutes (8%). The remaining 18 hours (4%) were consumed in breaks or suspension of proceedings due to various reasons, including lack of quorum or absence of the ministers.

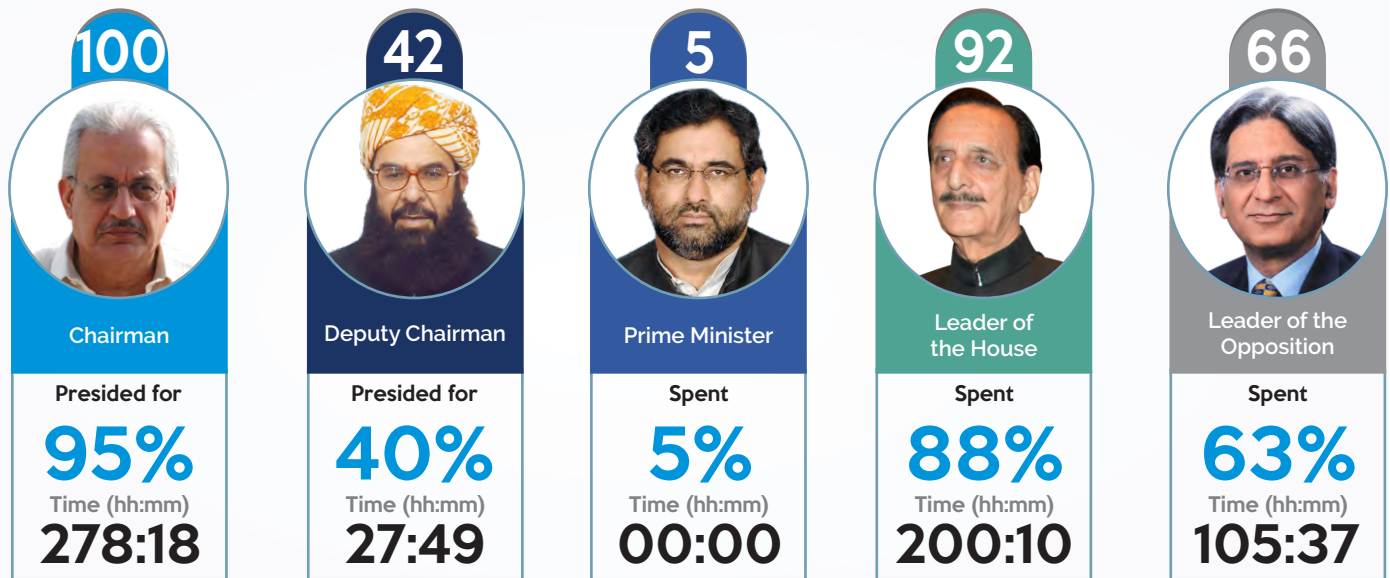
DURATIONS OF PROCEEDINGS



The Leader of the House attended 92 (88%) sittings for a total of 200 hours and 10 minutes (58% of proceedings), while the Leader of the Opposition remained present in 66 (63%) sittings consuming 105 hours and 37 minutes (30% of the proceedings). The Prime Minister attended five sittings only and remained present for two hours and 17 minutes. Under the Senate rules, the Prime Minister is required to come to the Senate at least once a week when the House is in session.

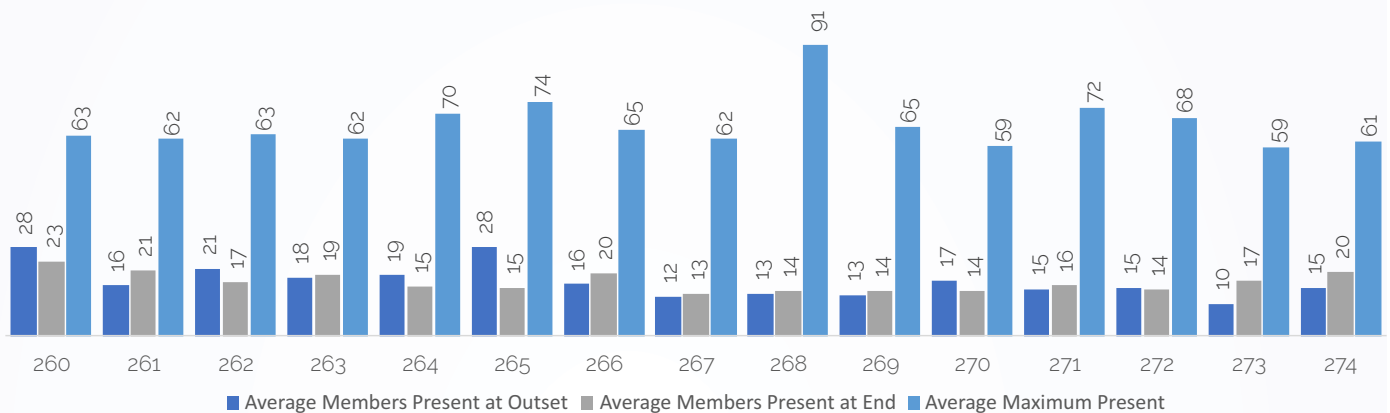
Each sitting of the session, on average, started with a delay of six minutes and continued for three hours and 19 minutes with 17 (16%) members present at the outset and the adjournment of the sitting. FAFEN conducts the headcount of the lawmakers at the commencement and conclusion of each sitting. However, according to the official attendance records, on average, 66 (65%) members attended a sitting during the year. The maximum average attendance during the year was 91 members per sitting recorded during 269th session while the minimum average was 51 members per sitting during 273rd session. On average, each lawmaker attended 63 out of 105 sittings.

KEY MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE (hh:mm)



* Eight percent of the proceedings' time was consumed in breaks.

SESSION-WISE ATTENDANCE



PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ATTENDANCE



TAJ HAIDER



98
attended

PPPP

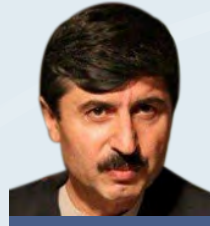


TAHIR MASHHADI



93
attended

MQM



USMAN KAKAR



90
attended

PkMAP



MUZAFFAR SHAH



72
attended

PML-F



JEHNZEB JAMALDINI



68
attended

BNP-M



MUSHAHID ULLAH KHAN



67
attended

PML-N



NAUMAN WAZEER



63
attended

PTI

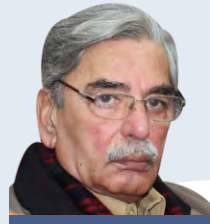


TALHA MEHMUD



59
attended

JUI-F



ILYAS BILOUR



59
attended

ANP



MUSHAHID HUSSAIN



56
attended

PML



HASIL BIZENJO



55
attended

NP



SIRAJ UL HAQ



54
attended

Ji



ISRAR ULLAH ZEHRI



47
attended

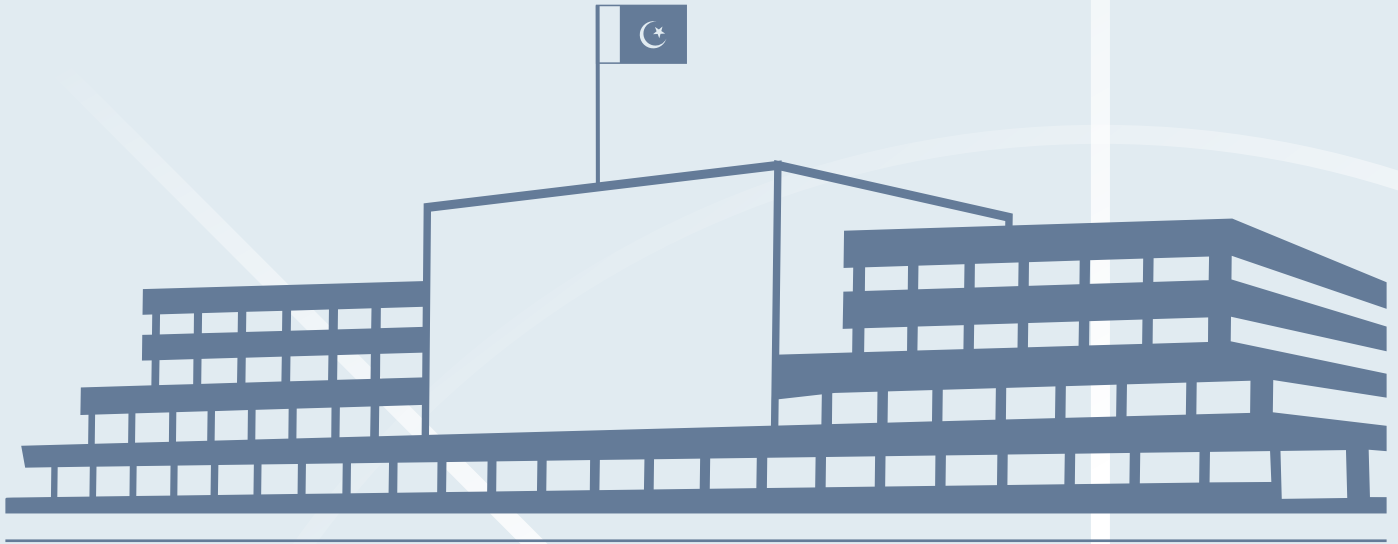
BNP-A

SENATORS' ATTENDANCE

Name	Party	Absent	Leave	Present	Total
Mian Raza Rabbani	PPPP	5		100	105
Ahmed Hassan	PPPP	3	3	99	105
Taj Haider	PPPP	7		98	105
Hamza	PML-N	8		97	105
Farhatullah Babar	PPPP	8		97	105
Muhammad Zafar Ullah Khan	PML-N	4	5	96	105
Gul Bashra	PKMAP	8	2	95	105
Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	PML-N	9	2	94	105
Samina Saeed	PTI	11		94	105
Col (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi	MQM	4	8	93	105
Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari	IND	12		93	105
Nuzhat Sadiq	PML-N	11	1	93	105
Muhammad Javed Abbasi	PML-N	7	5	93	105
Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan Musakhel	PKMAP		12	93	105
Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq	PML-N	13		92	105
Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar	PKMAP	7	8	90	105
Karim Ahmed Khawaja	PPPP	16		89	105
Kamil Ali Agha	PML	17		88	105
Kalsoom Perveen	PML-N	18		87	105
Begum Najma Hameed	PML-N	15	3	87	105
Rubina Khalid	PPPP	20		85	105
Muddassir Sehar Kamran	PPPP	7	13	85	105
A. Rehman Malik	PPPP	10	11	84	105
Advocate Muhammad Daud Khan Achakzai	ANP	21		84	105
Sajjad Hussain Turi	IND	21		84	105
Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh	MQM	16	7	82	105
Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi	NP	20	4	81	105
Sitara Ayaz	ANP	26		79	105
Lt General (R) Salahuddin Tirmizi	PML-N	18	9	78	105
Saleem Zia	PML-N	21	7	77	105
Nisar Muhammad	PML-N	28		77	105
Khalida Parveen	PPPP	26	2	77	105
Saeedul Hassan Mandokhail	PML	28	2	75	105
Pervaiz Rashid	PML-N	30		75	105
Muhammad Azam Khan Swati	PTI	8	23	74	105
Haji Momin Khan Afridi	IND	29	2	74	105

Name	Party	Absent	Leave	Present	Total
Nighat Mirza	MQM	14	18	73	105
Mir Muhammad Yousaf Badini	IND	32		73	105
Baz Muhammad Khan	ANP	29	4	72	105
Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah	PML-F	15	18	72	105
Lt General (R) Abdul Qayyum	PML-N	25	8	72	105
Hidayat Ullah	IND	30	4	71	105
Nehal Hashmi	PML-N	19		71	90
Mufti Abdul Sattar	JUI	19	16	70	105
Muhsin Aziz	PTI	32	4	69	105
Dr. Ashok Kumar	NP	30	6	69	105
Chaudhary Tanvir	PML-N	33	3	69	105
Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini	BNP-M	24	13	68	105
Mushahid Ullah Khan	PML-N	26	12	67	105
Aitzaz Ahsan	PPPP	39		66	105
Syed Shibli Faraz	PTI	39		66	105
Shahi Syed	ANP	40		65	105
John Kenneth Williams	PTI	40		65	105
Muhammad Saleh Shah	IND	26	15	64	105
Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan Nasir	PML-N	32	10	63	105
Tanveer-ul-Haq Thanvi	MQM	20	22	63	105
Nauman Wazir	PTI	42		63	105
Sheher Bano Sherry Rehman	PPPP	39	4	62	105
Sassui Palijo	PPPP	44		61	105
Saleem Mandviwalla	PPPP	43	2	60	105
Gianchand	PPPP	46		59	105
Muhammad Talha Mehmood	JUI	31	15	59	105
Ilyas Ahmad Bilour	ANP	27	19	59	105
Ayesha Raza Farooq	PML-N	36	10	59	105
Malik Najmul Hassan	IND	47		58	105
Rozi Khan Kakar	PPPP	46	1	58	105
Khanzada Khan	PPPP	43	4	58	105
Prof. Sajid Mir	PML-N	14	33	58	105
Atta ur Rehman	JUI	35	12	58	105
Hafiz Hamdullah	JUI	21	27	57	105
Saud Majeed	PML-N	48	1	56	105
Mushahid Hussain Syed	PML	13	21	56	90
Mukhtiar Ahmed Dhamrah	PPPP	19	31	55	105
Aurangzeb Khan	IND	50		55	105

Name	Party	Absent	Leave	Present	Total
Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo	NP	50		55	105
Siraj Ul Haq	JI	29	22	54	105
Liaqat Khan Tarakai	PTI	32	20	53	105
Muhammad Ali Khan Saif	MQM	53		52	105
Sardar Fateh Muhammad Muhammad Hassani	PPPP	51	2	52	105
Naseema Ehsan	BNP-A	51	3	51	105
Hari Ram	PPPP	54	3	48	105
Taj Muhammad Afridi	IND	47	11	47	105
Mir Israr Ullah Khan Zehri	BNP-A	52	6	47	105
Osman Saifullah Khan	PPPP	55	4	46	105
Haji Saifullah Khan Bangash	PPPP	13	32	45	90
Barrister Murtaza Wahab	PPPP	23		44	67
Hilal-ur-Rehman	IND	60	2	43	105
Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	JUI	63	1	41	105
Khushbakht Shujat	MQM	34	31	40	105
Zahida Khan	ANP	48	18	39	105
Rahila Magsi	PML-N	61	6	38	105
Islamuddin Shaikh	PPPP	65	3	37	105
Nasreen Jalil	MQM	68		37	105
Nawabzada Saifullah Magsi	PPPP	49	21	35	105
Robina Irfan	PML	52	18	35	105
Farooq Hamid Naek	PPPP	52	18	35	105
Agha Shahzaib Durrani	PML-N	34		35	69
Sirdar Zulfiqar Ali Khan Khosa	PML-N	65	6	34	105
Muhammad Yousaf	PPPP	60	12	33	105
Syed Asif Saeed Kirmani	PML-N	45	1	21	67
Mr. Kamran Michael	PML-N	86		19	105
Saeed Ghani	PPPP	19		17	36
Mohammad Ishaq Dar	PML-N	68	23	14	105
Engr. Agha Shehbaz Khan	PML-N	16	8	8	32
Zaheer-ud-Din Babar Awan	PPPP	26		6	32
Dr. Muhammad Farogh Naseem	MQM	101		4	105
Mir Nematullah Zehri	PML-N	18	84	3	105



PARLIAMENTARY OUTPUT

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

2

Passed Bills

50

Total Resolutions

102

Reports

236

Amendments to
Rules

12

LEGISLATION

The legislative business of the Senate during 15th Parliamentary Year comprised 139 bills, including 100 private members' bills. Of these, the House passed 33 government and 17 private members' bills. Moreover, 22 bills were withdrawn by the movers, nine were dropped due to absence of the concerned lawmakers and eight were rejected while two bills were never addressed. The remaining 47 bills were pending in the House at various stages by the end of the parliamentary year.

As many as 41 bills are under review of the standing committees while three were being considered in the select committees. As many as three bills were deferred by the Chair. Moreover, the House referred three private members' bills to the Joint Sitting of the Parliament because the National Assembly did not pass these bills within a period of 90 days after transmission to Lower House by the Senate. The government also laid the Finance Bill, 2017 in the House, although it does not require Senate's approval. However, the Senators referred their recommendations to the National Assembly on the Finance Bill.

The male lawmakers initiated most of the 15th year's legislative business as they sponsored 119 bills in comparison to 13 bills of women legislators. Both men and women moved the remaining seven bills together. All the government bills except one were moved by the male members of the cabinet belonging to PML-N. The PTI lawmakers sponsored the highest number of private members' bills i.e. 37 and were followed by PPP, MQM and PML-N lawmakers who sponsored 28, 10 and nine bills, respectively.

The amendments to the criminal laws and reforms in the justice system topped the Senate's approved legislative business during the 15th parliamentary year. The other important areas that the Senate legislated upon included education, economy, security, elections and the human rights.

PASSED BILLS

ECONOMY

Session	Bill Mover	Party	Bill Title	Bill Type
274	Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan	PML-N	The Corporate Rehabilitation Bill, 2018	Government
262	Mohammad Ishaq Dar	PML-N	The Companies Bill, 2017	Government
269	Muhammad Pervaiz Malik	PML-N	The Marine Insurance Bill, 2017	Government
267	Mohammad Ishaq Dar	PML-N	The Corporate Rehabilitation Bill, 2017	Government
261	Khurram Dastgir Khan	PML-N	The Limited Liability Partnership Bill, 2017	Government
266	Muhammad Azam Khan Swati	PTI	The Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2016	Private

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Session	Bill Mover	Party	Bill Title	Bill Type
274	Muhammad Baleegh-ur-Rehman	PML-N	The National Skills University Islamabad Bill, 2017	Government
272	Rana Tanveer Hussain	PML-N	The National University of Technology Bill, 2017	Government
272	Dr. Tariq Fazal Ch.	PML-N	The Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University, Islamabad (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Government
271	Muhammad Baleegh-ur-Rehman	PML-N	The Apprenticeship Bill, 2017	Government
271	Rana Tanveer Hussain	PML-N	The COMSATS University Islamabad Bill, 2017	Government
266	Muhammad Baleegh-ur-Rehman	PML-N	The Compulsory Teaching of the Holy Quran Bill, 2017	Government
274	Muddassir Sehar Kamran	PPPP	The National Civic Education Commission Bill, 2017	Private

ELECTORAL REFORMS

Session	Bill Mover	Party	Bill Title	Bill Type
271	Sheikh Aftab Ahmed	PML-N	The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Government
270	Zahid Hamid Khan	PML-N	The Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Government
269	Siraj Ul Haq	JI	The Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Private
268	Zahid Hamid Khan	PML-N	The Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Government
267	Zahid Hamid Khan	PML-N	The Elections Bill, 2017	Government

MISCELLANEOUS

Session	Bill Mover	Party	Bill Title	Bill Type
273	Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari	PML-N	The Regulation of Generation, Transmission and Distribution of Electric Power (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Government
260	Zahid Hamid Khan	PML-N	The Pakistan Climate Change Bill, 2017	Government
273	Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari	IND	The National Assembly Secretariat Employees Bill, 2018	Private

GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

Session	Bill Mover	Party	Bill Title	Bill Type
272	Nasreen Jalil	MQM	The National Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Private
272	Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan	PML-N	The Auditor-General's (Functions, Powers and Terms and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Government
271	Muhammad Pervaiz Malik	PML-N	The Pakistan Tobacco Board (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Government
269	Karim Ahmed Khawaja	PPPP	The Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Private
266	Sheikh Aftab Ahmed	PML-N	The National School of Public Policy (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Government
266	Ameer Zaman	JUI	The Post Office (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Government
261	Sheikh Aftab Ahmed	PML-N	The National School of Public Policy (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Government

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Session	Bill Mover	Party	Bill Title	Bill Type
274	Rubina Khalid	PPPP	The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2017	Private
262	Mr. Kamran Michael	PML-N	The National Commission on the Rights of the Child Bill, 2017	Government
273	Karim Ahmed Khawaja	PPPP	The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill, 2018	Private

JUSTICE SYSTEM REFORMS

Session	Bill Mover	Party	Bill Title	Bill Type
272	Ch. Mahmood Bashir Virk	PML-N	The Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Government
262	Zahid Hamid Khan	PML-N	The Costs of Litigation Bill, 2017	Government
262	Zahid Hamid Khan	PML-N	The Alternate Dispute Resolution Bill, 2017	Government

Session	Bill Mover	Party	Bill Title	Bill Type
273	Siraj Ul Haq	JI	The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment of sections 292, 293 and 294 of PPC and Schedule-II of Cr.PC)	Private
273	Karim Ahmed Khawaja	PPPP	The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Private
270	Chaudhary Tanvir	PML-N	The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Private
269	Muhammad Azam Khan Swati	PTI	The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Private
266	Chaudhary Tanvir	PML-N	The Control of Narcotic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Private
263	Muhammad Baleegh-ur-Rehman	PML-N	The Illegal Dispossession (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Government
261	Muhammad Azam Khan Swati	PTI	The Pakistan Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment of sections 273, 274 and 275)	Private
261	Muhammad Azam Khan Swati	PTI	The Pakistan Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment of section 323)	Private

SECURITY

Session	Bill Mover	Party	Bill Title	Bill Type
260	Zahid Hamid Khan	PML-N	The Constitution (Twenty-eighth Amendment) Bill, 2017	Government
260	Zahid Hamid Khan	PML-N	The Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Government
262	Khawaja Muhammad Asif	PML-N	The Pakistan Air Force (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Government
262	Zahid Hamid Khan	PML-N	The Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Government
273	Mukhtiar Ahmed Dhamrah	PPPP	The Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Private
269	Muhammad Azam Khan Swati	PTI	The Islamabad Capital Territory Shops, Business and Industrial Establishments (Security) (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Private

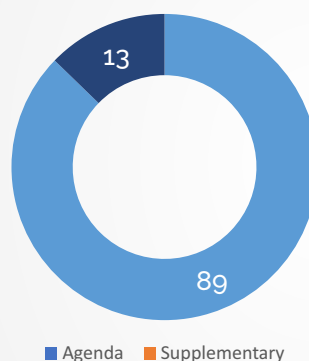
TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Session	Bill Mover	Party	Bill Title	Bill Type
269	Zahid Hamid Khan	PML-N	The Public Interest Disclosures Bill, 2017	Government
266	Marriyum Aurangzeb	PML-N	The Right of Access to Information Bill, 2017	Government

RESOLUTIONS

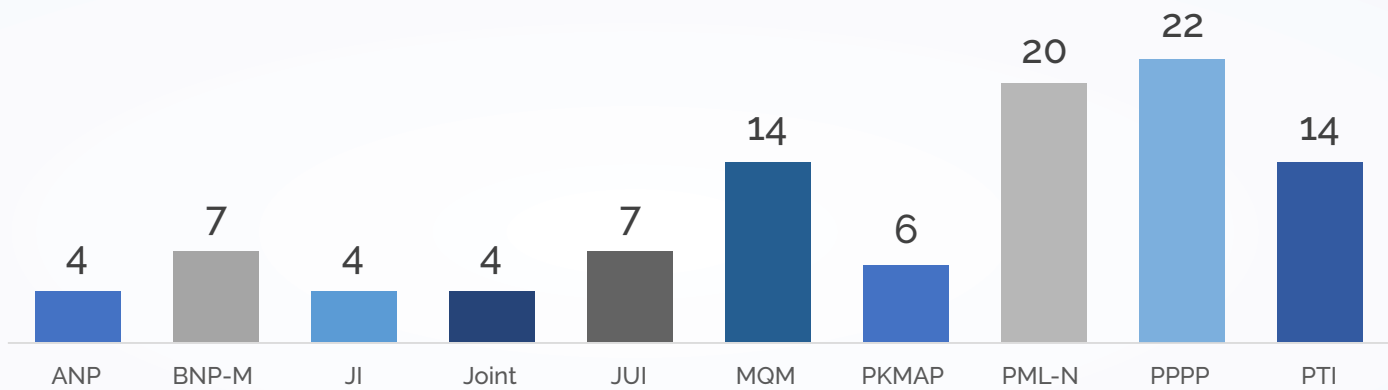
The ministers and the private lawmakers submitted 102 resolutions during the reporting period, of which the House adopted 69 resolutions. As many as 58 adopted resolutions were sponsored by the private members, nine by the government while two were jointly sponsored by the government and the private members.

REGULAR/ SUPPLEMENTARY RESOLUTIONS



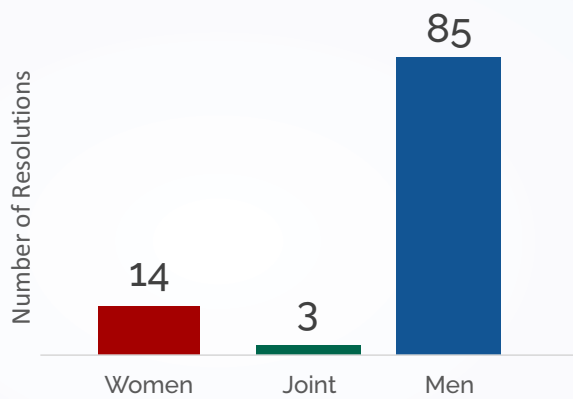
This chart tells about how many resolutions have been submitted as a regular agenda and how many have been brought as the supplementary agenda.

RESOLUTIONS BY PARLIAMENTARY PARTIES



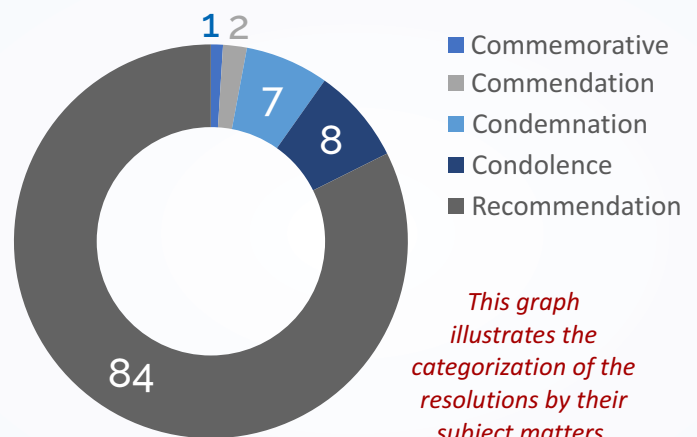
This graph depicts the number of resolutions sponsored by each parliamentary party represented in the Senate.

RESOLUTIONS BY GENDER



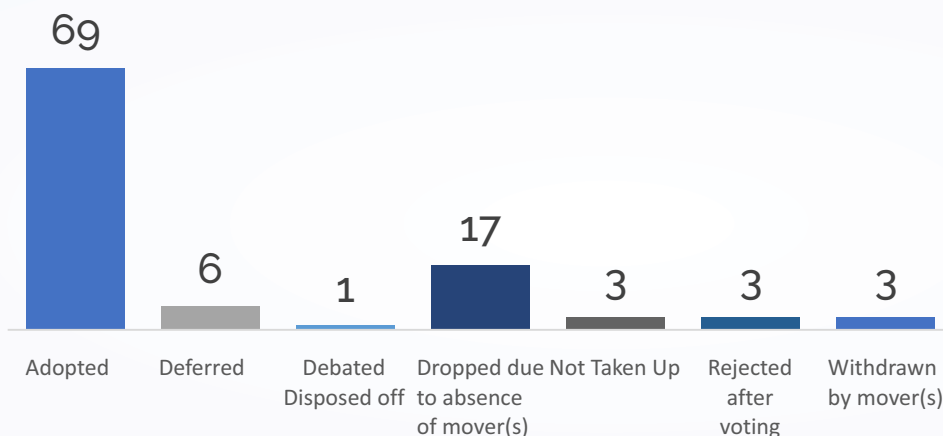
This graph shows the share of men and women lawmakers in sponsoring the resolutions.

RESOLUTION BY SUBJECT NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS



This graph illustrates the categorization of the resolutions by their subject matters.

STATUS OF RESOLUTIONS



This graph shows the status of resolutions that appear on the Orders of the Day.

AMENDMENTS TO RULES

The Senators may propose amendments to the Rules of Procedure. These amendments are deliberated and voted upon by the House before becoming a part of the Rules of Procedure.

During the 15th parliamentary year, the lawmakers proposed 12 amendments to the Senate's Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, 2012. The House approved half of these amendments and referred three to the standing committee on the rules of procedure for review while the remaining amendments were not taken up. All of the amendments except three were jointly moved by the treasury and the opposition lawmakers.

1. Committees' Review of Development Budgets – Insertion of Rule 166(7)

Movers: Leader of the House and Leader of the Opposition

Status: Approved

This insertion empowered the standing committees to scrutinize the proposed Public Sector Development Programmes (PSDP) of their relevant ministries before their inclusion in the budget for next financial year. The new rule also allowed the committees to make recommendations to these programmes.

2. Dress Code – Insertion of Rule 268A

Movers: Leader of the House and Leader of the Opposition

Status: Approved

The new rule mandates that the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Presiding Officer, Table Officers and other officers/officials performing duties in the House shall follow a dress code prescribed in the Standing Orders.

3. Bills Rejected by the Standing Committees – Amendment to Rule 100(1)

Movers: Leader of the House and a PPPP lawmaker

Status: Approved

The amendment limits the options that the mover(s) of a bill can use after the bill is rejected by a standing committee. In this case, the bill can only be referred to a select committee, whereas earlier, it could be considered for passage as well after disapproval of the committee.

4. Intimation of Cases against Sitting Senators – Amendment to Rule 79(1)

Movers: Leader of the House

Status: Approved

The Rule 79 provides that the concerned executive or judicial authorities are required to intimate the Chairman of Senate when a member of the Senate is arrested or sentenced to imprisonment. The recent amendment adds that the Chairman will also be informed when a case is registered against any member of the Upper House of the Parliament.

5. Announcement of Intimation of Cases against Sitting Senators – Amendment to Rule 67

Movers: Leader of the House

This amendment seeks to update Rule 81 in light of the amendments to Rule 79.

6. Amendments to Senate Standing Orders – Amendment to Rule 194(1)

Movers: Leader of the House and a PPPP lawmaker

The Senate also approved amendment to Standing Order 2.22 Attendance of movers in the Committee meetings and insertion of new Standing Orders 2.25A Leave of absence from the Committee meetings and 2.53A Withdrawal of a Bill from the Committee.

7. Public Input to Legislation – Amendments to Rule 98 and Rule 101 (1) (c)

Movers: Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition, a PPPP lawmaker

Status: Adopted

The amendment adds two provisions under Rule 98 allowing the standing committees to circulate the bills under its review for eliciting public opinion. The bills can be circulated for public feedback if mover(s) of the bill request so. The amendment to Rule 100 (1) deletes the paragraph (c) that provides for circulating a bill for public opinion after the presentation of committee's report on the bill.

8. Composition of Select Committee – Amendment to Rule 203

Movers: Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition, a PPPP lawmaker

Status: Adopted

The amendment provides for the composition and quorum of a Select Committee constituted for the purpose of reviewing a bill that has already been reviewed by a standing committee of the Senate.

9. Mover's Right to Reply on Calling Attention Notice – Amendment in Rule 64(2)

Movers: Jointly moved by PPPP, ANP, PTI, PML and Independent lawmakers

Status: Referred to the Committee

The amendment seeks to grant an opportunity to the mover(s) of a Calling Attention Notice (CAN) to respond to the facts stated by the government on the Senator's CAN.

10. Mover's Right to Reply on Adjournment Motion – Amendment in Rule 64(2)

Movers: Jointly moved by PPPP, ANP, PTI, PML and Independent lawmakers

Status: Referred to the Committee

The amendment seeks to grant an opportunity to the mover(s) of an Adjournment Motion to respond to the facts stated by the government on the Senator's motion.

11. Minutes of the Committee Meetings - Amendment to Rule 191(2)

Movers: PML-N lawmaker

Status: Referred to the Committee

The amendment seeks to make it compulsory for the Committee Secretary to provide the committee members minutes of the meetings. Presently, the minutes are provided on demand.

REPORTS

REPORTS OF THE STANDING AND FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEES

The Senate Standing and Functional Committees regularly report to the House on legislative bills or other matters referred to them or on the issues they have taken suo moto notice of. During the 15th parliamentary year, the Standing and Functional Committees presented reports on 102 legislative bills, 107 miscellaneous matters referred to them and three on government assurances. The Special Committees constituted by the House on various issues also presented 15 reports. The Select Committees on Bills presented three reports in the House. The Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges also presented its reports on 19 Questions of Privilege and an amendment proposed to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012. The House also referred a report back to the committee after finding it deficient.

The Rule 196 of the Senate Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business 2012 provides for the consideration and adoption of the reports presented before the House. The Senate adopted 25 of the above-mentioned reports during the 15th parliamentary year.

Sr. No.	Type of Reports	Number of Reports
1	Standing and Functional Committee Reports on Matters Referred to by the House	89
2	Standing Committee Reports on Bills	98
3	Reports on Questions of Privilege	19
4	Report on Proposed Amendment in Rules	1
5	Reports on Government Assurances	3
6	Reports of Special Committees	15
7	Select Committee Reports on Bills	3

STATUTORY REPORTS

There are certain documents and periodical reports mentioned in the Constitution or the Statutes of the Parliament which the government is required to lay before the House of Federation. During 15th Parliamentary Year, the government presented eight statutory documents and reports before the Senate. These documents included the authenticated copy of the Presidential Address to the Parliament, Quarterly and Annual Reports of the State Bank of Pakistan's Central Board of Directors, Audit Reports and Annual Reports of the Federal Public Service Commission, National Commission on the Status of Women, and National Economic Council.

PERIODICAL REPORTS UNDER RULE 265A

The Rule 265A of the Senate Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business 2012 binds the ministers to brief the House every three months on the matters referred to the government by the House or its Committees. These periodical reports are to be presented every year in June, September, December and March.

During the reporting period, 17 out of 48 ministers presented the quarterly reports to the Senate on 31 matters referred to them and the committee recommendations. The House endorsed the ministerial reports on 28 matters/recommendations while deferring the remaining three for a later time. The 15th year reporting under Rule 265A was done only twice in November and January.

The ministers informed the House about their actions on the recommendations of Special Committee on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's demands from the Federation of Pakistan, Special Committee on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Special Committee on Performance of PIA, Special Committee on Lapsing of Foreign Scholarships and the

recommendations of various standing committees. The ministerial reports also addressed the issues concerning peasants of Okara Farms, offences against women and enhancing the role and powers of the Senate. The Ministers for Planning, Development & Reform, Finance, Revenue & Economic Affairs, Capital Administration and Development Division, Power, Human Rights, Climate Change Division, Petroleum & Natural Resources, Cabinet Secretariat, Science & Technology, Aviation Division, States & Frontier Regions, Railways, Federal Education & Professional Training, Law & Justice, Water Resources, Information Technology & Telecommunication and Inter-Provincial Coordination presented reports under this rule.

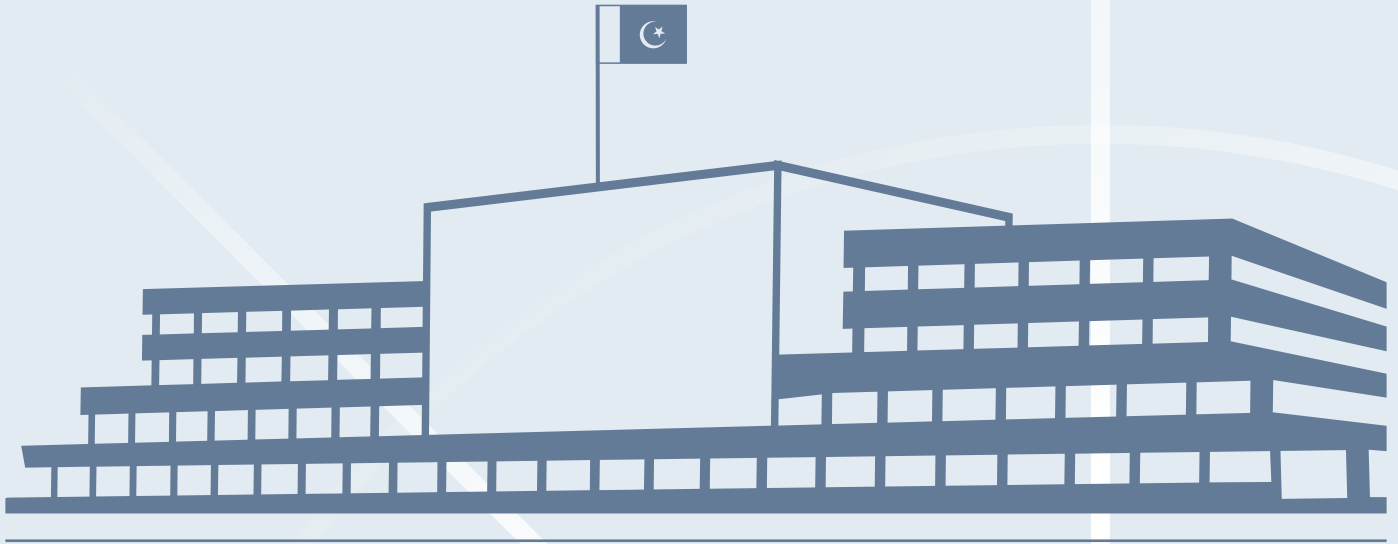
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Senate Rules of Procedure provide that the House may constitute itself into a Committee of the Whole to deliberate upon any matter referred to it by the House. The Committee of the Whole presented two reports on the revival of students' unions in the educational institutions and policy guidelines on the foreign relations.

The Senate constituted the Committee of the Whole to consider matters related to the revival of students' unions in the educational institutions and preparing policy guidelines for the government in light of the emerging regional realities and role of the United States, including US President's Afghan-South Asia Policy statement. The Committee deliberated on these matters in its meetings and presented its reports to the House. The Chief of Army Staff also gave in-camera briefing to the Committee of the Whole on the issue of national security.

SEEKING EXTENSION IN TIME

The reports of the Committees are to be made within the time either fixed by the House or 60 days from the date when a matter is referred to the Committee. However, the House may, on a motion for extension of time moved before the expiry of time, allow that the time for presentation of the report be extended. During the course of 15th Parliamentary Year, the House approved 131 motions seeking extension in the time for presentation of the committee reports while one such motion was rejected.



REPRESENTATION, RESPONSIVENESS AND GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

This section gives statistical as well as qualitative overview of nonlegislative interventions in the House – Questions, Adjournment Motions (AM) or any other motions – for the oversight of government and to articulate issues of public interest and importance.

3

Total Questions

1,538

Call Attention Notices

112

Adjournment Motions

117

Motions under Rule 218

117

QUESTION HOUR

As many as 51 out of 104 Senators exercised their right to ask questions from the government during the reporting year. They asked a total of 1,538 questions, including 1,527 starred questions and 11 unstarred questions. According to the rules, the starred questions require oral as well as written replies while written reply is sufficient for unstarred questions.

Forty male lawmakers asked 1,297 questions and 11 women lawmakers 241 questions. These lawmakers belonged to 12 parliamentary parties. The members belonging to PPPP asked 360 questions, PML-N 287, MQM 235 and PTI 234.

The lawmakers asked more questions from the Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control than any other ministry. The ministry received as many as 259 questions during the year while the Ministries of Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization and the Capital Administration and Development Division received 155 and 106 questions, respectively. The Ministry of Defence Production received only one question throughout the year. The lawmakers also asked four questions from the Prime Minister's Office and three from the President's Secretariat.

CALLING ATTENTION NOTICES

The lawmakers submitted 112 Calling Attention Notices on issues of public importance. A total of 88 CANs were listed on the agenda. The government representatives (ministers or parliamentary secretaries) responded to 89 notices while five of these were referred to the relevant standing committees for further deliberations. As many as five of the remaining notices were dropped because of their movers' absence, 10 kept pending on the treasury's or mover's requests while eight were never taken up.

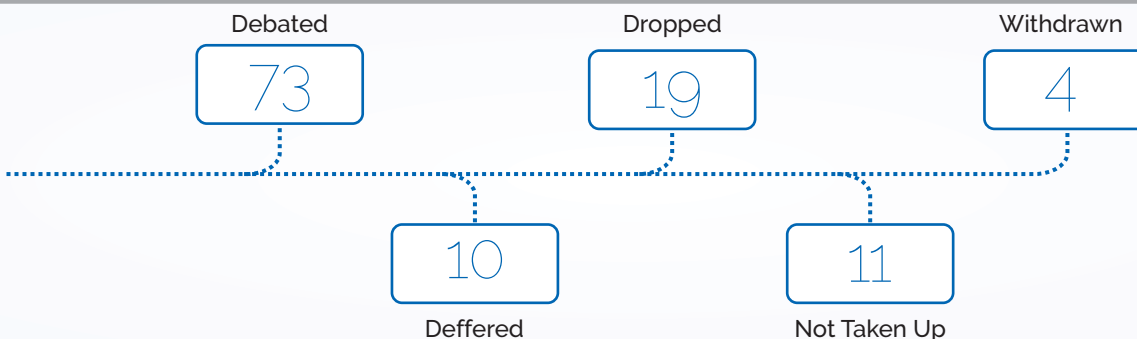
Through these CANs, the legislators highlighted the issues of public importance related to the terrorism, health, environmental degradation, education, economy, governance, foreign affairs, energy needs and others.

As many as 42 lawmakers, including 15 of PPPP, five of MQM, four each of PML-N and PTI, submitted CANs during 2017-18. The PPPP lawmakers submitted 38 CANs, MQM lawmakers 24, PTI lawmakers 12, JUI lawmaker seven and PML-N and PkMAP lawmakers five each. Moreover, 15 CANs were jointly submitted by the lawmakers belonging to two or more parties. The male lawmakers sponsored 83 CANs throughout the year whereas women brought 21 CANs. The remaining eight CANs were jointly sponsored by both men and women. As many as 19 CANs were addressed to the Ministry of Interior and Narcotics and 16 to the Ministry of Finance, Revenue, Statistics, Economic Affairs and Privatization.

MOTIONS UNDER RULE 218

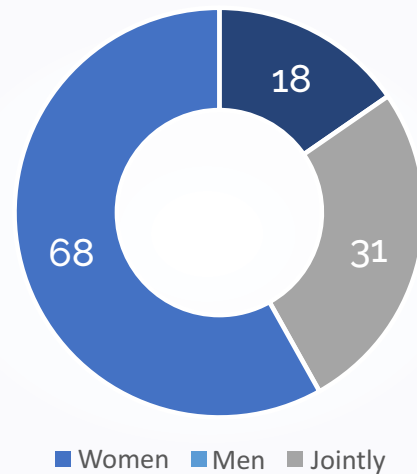
The lawmakers submitted 117 Motions under Rule 218 to highlight various issues of public importance. The House debated only 73 (62%) of these motions. As many as 19 motions were withdrawn due to absence of the concerned lawmakers, and 10 were deferred on the request of the mover(s) or the government. Moreover, the lawmakers withdrew four motions under Rule 218 due to multiple reasons while 11 were not taken up for discussion.

STATUS OF MOTIONS UNDER RULE 218

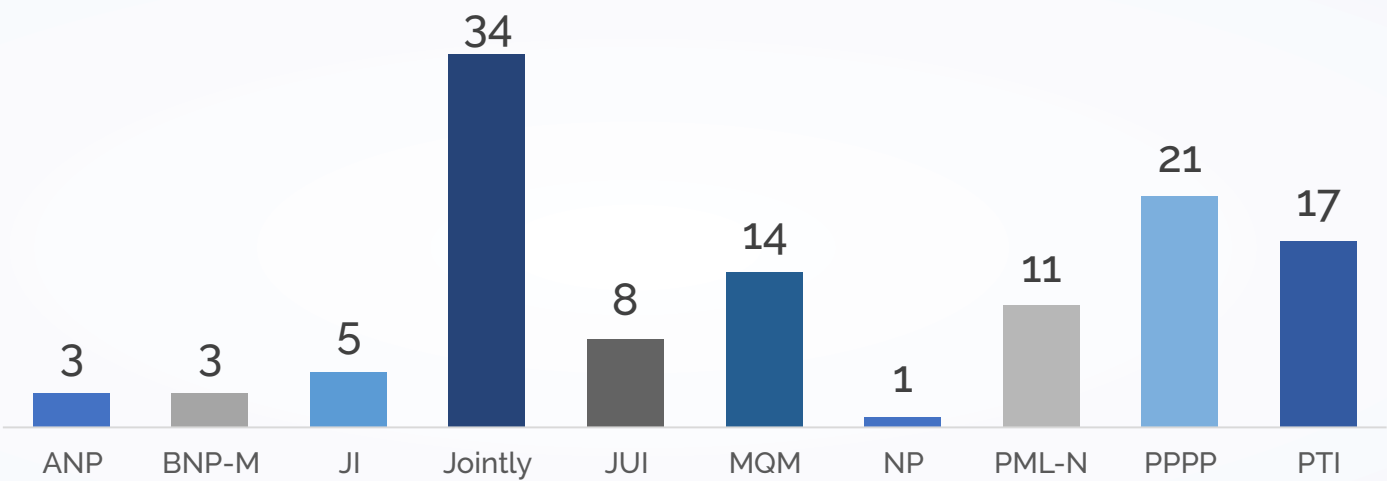


The male lawmakers sponsored 68 motions and women 18, while the remaining 31 motions were jointly moved by men and women. The Senators belonging to the majority party, PPPP sponsored 21 motions, which were followed by the lawmakers of PTI, MQM and PML-N who sponsored 17, 14 and 11 motions, respectively. As many as 34 motions were jointly sponsored by the lawmakers belonging to two or more parliamentary parties in the Senate.

MOTIONS UNDER RULE 218 BY GENDER



MOTIONS UNDER RULE 218 BY PARTY



ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

The Senate rules permit the lawmakers to move the House for adjournment of the scheduled business in order to discuss any definite and urgent issue of public importance. However, such an adjournment and the subsequent discussion is subject to the permission of the Chairman who decides the admissibility of the Adjournment Motion according to the rules.

The lawmakers submitted 117 Adjournment Motions during 15th Parliamentary Year and the Chair admitted 33 of these motions for discussion during the proceedings but only 24 were debated in the House. Of the remaining, 36 motions were rejected for being in contravention of the rules governing the Adjournment Motions, 17 were withdrawn by the movers and 12 were dropped due to absence of the concerned lawmakers. In addition, 15 AMs were disposed of because either they were clubbed together with another agenda item or because the time for consideration of the AMs was out on the day when they were set for consideration. Moreover, three AMs were never taken up and one was deferred in a sitting but never discussed again.

The lawmakers belonging to PPPP sponsored 34 AMs, MQM 32 and PTI 12. The JI, PML-N, JUI-F, PkMAP and NP lawmakers submitted a total of 13 AMs. The remaining 26 resolutions were jointly sponsored by lawmakers belonging

to two or more parties. Similarly, men submitted 78 AMs as compared to 21 by women while they submitted 81 AMs in collaboration with each other.

The motions debated in the House highlighted the issues relating to Pakistan's foreign relations, political developments, economy and governance.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE (POPI)

The lawmakers spoke on 452 Points of Public Importance during 15th Parliamentary Year. As many as 65 lawmakers belonging to 13 parliamentary parties highlighted various issues using these points. The PPPP lawmakers raised 158 PoPIs, PML-N 54, PkMAP 49 and MQM 37. The lawmakers belonging to PTI, ANP, PML and other smaller parties raised 154 PoPIs.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSES

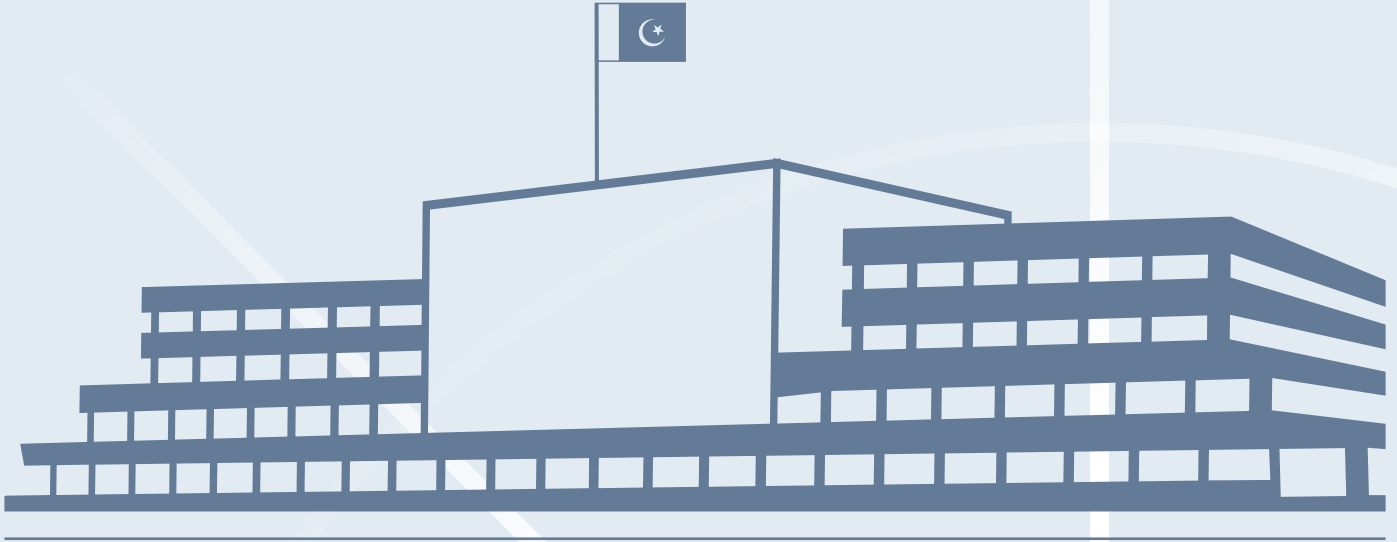
The Senate sought ministerial responses on 74 matters of public important. The ministers made statements before the House on 56 of these matters while 16 were still pending by the close of the year. Moreover, a matter requiring ministerial response was referred to the relevant committee while one was withdrawn by the relevant lawmaker.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 60

The Senate rules permit the Chairman to allot a half-hour slot in a working week to discuss any matter arising out of a question if a member gives a notice for such a discussion. During the 15th parliamentary year, four lawmakers – two of PPPP and one each of MQM and PTI – gave notices for discussions on five questions they asked from the government. The House held discussions on four of these questions while one question was dropped due to absence of the concerned lawmaker at the time scheduled for discussion.

CONSTITUTION OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The House constituted four Special Committees under Rule 204 to look into the matters arising out of discussions in the House. These committees were tasked to examine the Annual Report of Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC), scrutinize the performance of Sports Federation, review the implementation of building by-laws by Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the failure of the government to implement Senate's decisions. Moreover, the House also approved a motion constituting a Parliamentary Committee on National Security comprising parliamentary leaders of the parties having representation in the National Assembly and the Senate.



ORDER AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION

Order and institutionalization is important for an efficient and productive legislature. This section includes details of points of order, privilege motions and protests observed in the assembly during the year.

4

Questions of
Privilege

5

Protests/Walkouts
/Boycotts

6

QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE

The Senate rules allow the lawmakers to raise a question involving a breach of privilege either of a lawmaker or of the Senate or of a Committee of the House.

As many as four lawmakers raised five Questions of Privilege during 15th Parliamentary Year. One of these questions, moved by a PkMAP lawmaker, was not admitted by the Chair while the remaining four were referred to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges for further review. These questions were moved against the Secretary Aviation, Pakistan International Airlines Management, a Station House Officer of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police and in-charge of Pak - Public Works Department.

PROTESTS, WALKOUTS AND BOYCOTTS

The Senate witnessed six incidents of protests and walkouts during the reporting year. The opposition lawmakers staged walkouts against Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), delay in the announcement of National Finance Commission (NFC) award, enforced disappearances in various parts of the country, blocking of National Identity Cards (NICs) and absence of ministers from the House proceedings. The opposition also protested against the Prime Minister when a Supreme Court bench declared him ineligible to hold public or any other office.

QUORUM

A quarter of total membership of the Senate constitutes the quorum for the plenary proceedings. According to the Senate Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, the condition for quorum can be invoked only when any lawmaker draws attention of the Chair towards the quorum. The question of quorum surfaced only twice during the entire reporting period. The JUI-F lawmakers identified the lack of quorum during 261st and 267th sessions. On the first instance of quorum identification, the required attendance was achieved after the bells were rung for five minutes while on the second occasion, the sitting was adjourned.

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 19,700 followers on Twitter and around 131,000 on Facebook, FAFEN is considered one of the most reliable sources of electoral and parliamentary information in the country.

Free and Fair Election Network
www.fafen.org

