



Citizen's Report

**Performance of the 13th National Assembly of
Pakistan**

The 3rd Year

March 17, 2010 - March 16, 2011

PILDAT is an independent, non-partisan and not-for-profit indigenous research and training institution with the mission to strengthen democracy and democratic institutions in Pakistan.

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Preface

While the world increasingly embraces democracy as a preferred system of governance, twenty-first century has seen the emergence of a paradox termed the “Democracy Paradox” by Political theorists. It deals with the contrast between the high expectations from a democracy and what comes about from it.¹ It is widely recognized that Parliaments today have a key role in addressing this paradox. The Parliament as the central institution of a democracy should perform towards fulfilling the expectation from it. It is responsible for effectively legislating over matters relevant to the people. Furthermore, it should oversee matters of the Government and ensure its accountability. In summary, the Parliament faces enormous challenges. Given the peculiar political trajectory of Pakistan, these challenges become all the more important for Pakistan’s Parliament.

From 2002 onwards, PILDAT has consistently looked at the performance of the Pakistan’s Parliament, reviewing it from the citizens’ perspective. Its annual reports have helped highlight critical areas of performance as well as that of required reform in the Parliament of Pakistan over the years.

The Citizens Report of the Performance of the 13th National Assembly of Pakistan: the 3rd Year covers the period of March 17, 2010 to March 16, 2011. In keeping with the PILDAT tradition of compiling and disseminating National Assembly’s performance on a periodic basis since 2002, the current report also looks at some of the main categories of legislative performance at the completion of the 3rd year of the 13th National Assembly’s term.

The report shows that as compared to the Assembly’s first and second year, the third year has seen a downward trend. However, the average performance of the three (3) years of the 13th National Assembly has shown considerable improvement from the average performance of the 12th National Assembly.

Acknowledgments

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Disclaimer

This report has been prepared using the information and data from public resources. PILDAT team has made every effort to ensure accuracy of data and content in this report and any omission or error, therefore, is not deliberate.

Islamabad
November 2011

¹ **Parliament and Democracy in the Twenty-First Century: A Guide to Good Practice**, Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2006, as accessed on August 17, 2011 Link: http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/democracy_en.pdf

Executive Summary

During the third parliamentary year which concluded on March 16, 2011, the 13th National Assembly of Pakistan did not show any specific improvement in its performance as compared to the 2nd Parliamentary year. There was no improvement recorded in key areas such as Working hours and Days, Government bills, Private Members bills and Questions as compared to the second year. However, overall the 13th National Assembly of Pakistan has performed significantly better compared to the 12th National Assembly (2002-2007) in terms of legislation passed and the Ordinance to Bills ratio.

The actual number of Working days² during the 1st, 2nd and 3rd parliamentary years were 97, 104 and 104 respectively. This signifies an increase of 7% in the 2nd year and no change in the 3rd year. The total number of working hours of the 13th National Assembly were recorded to be 277 in the first year (2008-2009), 355 in the second year (2009-2010) and 300 during the third year which shows a decrease of 15% in the actual hours the National Assembly met in its 3rd year.

As far as the number of bills is concerned, the National Assembly passed 3, 29 and 24 Government bills in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd parliamentary year respectively which shows an increase of 867% in the 2nd year and a decrease of 17% in the 3rd year. The 13th National Assembly which has so far passed 5 Private members' bills in 3 years (1 bill in the first year; 3 bills in the second year and 1 bill in the third year), has already surpassed the 12th National Assembly of Pakistan in which only 1 Private Member Bill was passed during 5 years.

A comparison of the legislative performance of the National Assembly with the Indian Lok Sabha for the calendar year 2010-2011 reveals that the Lok Sabha passed 60% more bills than the National Assembly of Pakistan during this period.

National Assembly of Pakistan passed 71% of the bills introduced in the Assembly over a period of 2010-2011. The same percentage is 88% for the Indian Lok Sabha.

The number of questions asked by members has been significantly decreasing over the past 3 years in the 13th National Assembly of Pakistan. Members asked 10843 questions in the first year, 10572 questions in the second year and 8321 in the third parliamentary year, registering a year-to-year decrease of 2% in the 2nd year and 21% in the 3rd year. Furthermore, the percentage of Questions answered remained at 28% in the 1st year, 33% in the 2nd year and 28% in the 3rd year. This is an area of serious concern as lack of an effective system of accepting questions and their disposal through an efficient timeline of receiving answers from concerned ministries and departments is resulting in a declining

² According to the Constitution of Pakistan (Article 54 (2)), the National Assembly has to meet for "not less than one hundred and [thirty] working days in each year." However the working days are calculated, according to the Constitution as including "any day on which there is a joint sitting and any period, not exceeding two days for which the National Assembly is adjourned." However, for the purpose of this report, actual working days have been calculated on the basis of days on which the House actually met disregarding any weekend or breaks.

interest in members to raise issues of national concern in the Assembly in the form of questions.

The number of Privilege motions received during the 1st, 2nd and 3rd parliamentary year remained at 50, 60 and 76 respectively. This shows an increase of 20% in the 1st year and 27% in the 3rd year, thus registering an overall increase of 52% in members resorting to raising issues of privilege. Similarly, the number of Adjournment motions received during the 1st, 2nd and 3rd parliamentary year was 367, 402 and 409 respectively, which signifies an increase of 10% in the 2nd year and 2% in the 3rd year.

Major highlights of the performance of the National Assembly during the 3rd year were the passage of the 19th Constitutional Amendment and the Amendment to the Rules of Procedure regarding the removal of the Leader of Opposition. The Public Accounts Committee's performance is also worth highlighting as the PAC held an average of 34 meetings per year during the past three years and it has cleared a backlog of audit reports for the past 09 years i.e., 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-1992 1992-93, 1994-95, 1997-98, 2001-02, 2005-06 and 2008-09. It also presented to the House a Compliance Report 2010 on October 18, 2011. During these three years, Special Committee on Railways chaired by Mr. Nadeem Afzal Gondal, MNA presented a bold and landmark investigative report about the alleged irregularities in the award of lease of a Railway Golf Club land in Lahore during General Musharraf's time. House and Library Committee also did a good job while investigating alleged irregularities in an Employees Housing Scheme.

The most active Standing Committees of the National Assembly include **Standing Committee on Health**, chaired by Dr. Nadeem Ehsan, MNA (NA-247, Karachi-IX, Sindh, MQM) which held 21 meetings, **Standing Committee on Finance, Planning, Revenue and Development**, chaired by Ms. Fauzia Wahab, MNA (NA 312, Sindh-V, PPP) which held 19 meetings and **Standing Committee on Food and Agriculture**, chaired by Mr. Javed Iqbal Warraich (NA-196 R.Y.Khan-V, Punjab, PPP) which held 18 meeting during the 3rd Parliamentary year.

A bill originally titled 'Holders of Public Office (Accountability) Bill, 2009' is before the National assembly since April 15, 2009. The failure of the Assembly to pass an effective accountability law during the past 3 years remains its greatest failure.

Despite promises by the Government and demands from across the political spectrum inside the National Assembly, the National Assembly yet again failed to institute required reforms in the Parliamentary budget process. The role of the Assembly in analysing and scrutinising the national budget remains ineffective with no role for the parliamentary committees in the budget process.

Weak oversight of the Parliament on crucial areas such as national security and foreign policy, remains another area of concern.

An Overview of the Assembly Performance

The 13th national Assembly completed its 3rd Year on March 16, 2011. However, in comparison to the second year (2009-2010), a slight decrease in the performance of the Assembly was witnessed with respect to almost every performance indicator, including legislation, the number of questions that received a reply as well as the average number of work hours.

Key Performance Indicators

Working Days and Hours

According to Article 54 (2) of the constitution of Pakistan, the National Assembly has to meet for a minimum of 130 days in a year. A break of two days during an on-going session is also counted while computing the number of days in the context of this constitutional requirement. The 13th National Assembly met for a total of 140 days in 12 sessions, including two (2) joint sessions, during its 3rd parliamentary year. This shows an increase of about 3% as compared to the 2nd parliamentary year where the Assembly had met for 136 days in 12 sessions including four (4) joint sessions. The 2nd parliamentary year saw a slight increase of 3% compared to the 1st year in which the Assembly had met for 132 days.

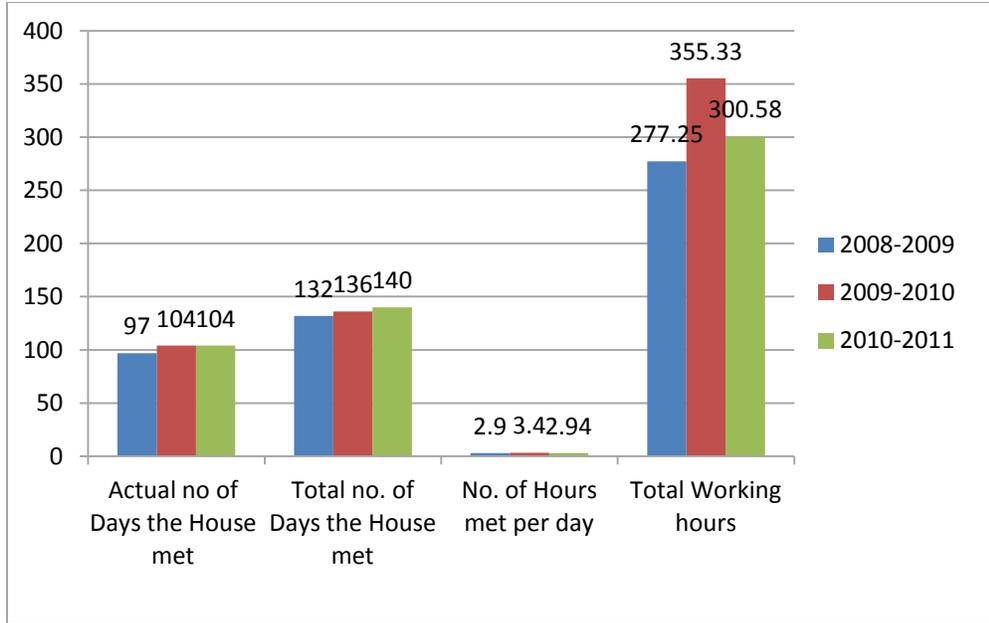
The actual (excluding breaks or non-working days) number of days the Assembly met was 104 during the 3rd year, with the same number of actual days of work during the 2nd year and 97 working days in the 1st year. This shows an increase of 7% in the 2nd year and no change in the 3rd year.

The 12th National Assembly of Pakistan, in comparison, had met on an average of 77 days a year during its 5-year term while the combined average of working days in 3 years of the 13th National Assembly stands at 102 days, registering a welcome increase of 31% in the number of days the Assembly met.

The total number of working hours during the 3rd year decreased from 355 Hours and 20 Minutes in the 2nd year to 300 Hours and 35 Minutes, a decrease of 15%. The 2nd year had seen an increase of 28% compared to the 1st parliamentary year in which the Assembly met for 277 Hours and 15 minutes.

The average working hours per day for the three years comes out to be around 3 hours and 04 minutes compared to the average of a little over 3 hours of the 12th National Assembly. This means that the 13th National Assembly has witnessed nominal or no change in this area.

Figure No. 01: Working Days and Hours



Legislation

The 3rd year of the 13th National Assembly saw a decrease of 17% in the number of bills passed compared to its 2nd year. The second year, it must be noted, had seen an increase of 867% in the number of Bills passed compared to the 1st year of the 13th National Assembly of Pakistan. The National Assembly passed 25 Bills ³ (24 Government and 01 Private Members' Bill) during the 3rd year compared to 32 bills (29 Government and 3 Private Members Bills) in the 2nd year and 04 Bills (03 Government and 01 Private Members Bill) in the 1st year. This means that the 13th National Assembly, at an average, passed 20 bills every year. This is a 100% improvement from the 12th National Assembly which only passed an average of 10 bills per year during its 5 year term.

The 13th National Assembly which has so far passed 5 Private members' bills in 3 years (1 bill in the first year; 3 bills in the second year and 1 bill in the third year), has already surpassed the 12th National Assembly of Pakistan in which only 1 Private Member Bill was passed during 5 years.

Figure No. 02: Government Bills

³ 06 Bills were passed twice by the National Assembly (05 from the previous calendar year). They are only included once in the total count, as per the NA procedure.

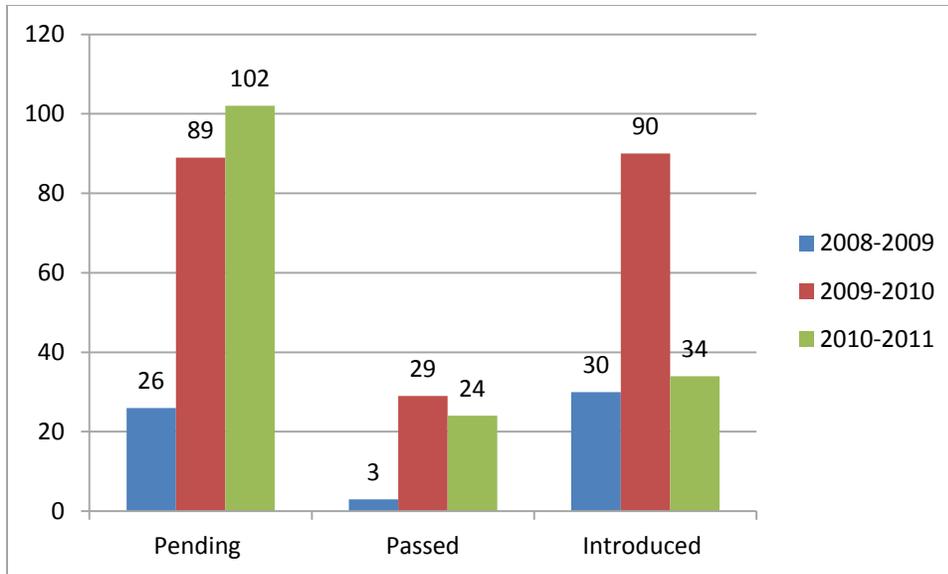
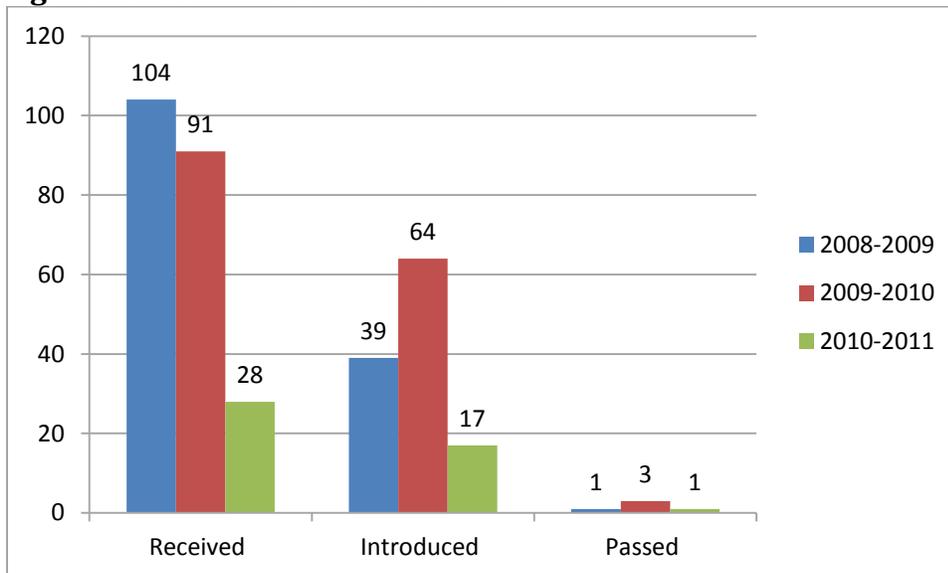


Figure No. 03: Private Member Bills



A comparison of the legislative performance of the National Assembly with the Indian Lok Sabha for the calendar year 2010-2011 reveals that the Lok Sabha passed 60% more bills than the National Assembly of Pakistan during this period.

National Assembly of Pakistan passed 71% of the bills introduced in the Assembly over a period of year 2010-2011. The same percentage is 88% for the Indian Lok Sabha.

Table 01: Comparison between the 13th National Assembly of Pakistan and the 15th Indian Lok Sabha

Year	Bills Passed

	National Assembly of Pakistan	Indian Lok Sabha
2010-2011	25	40

Ordinances

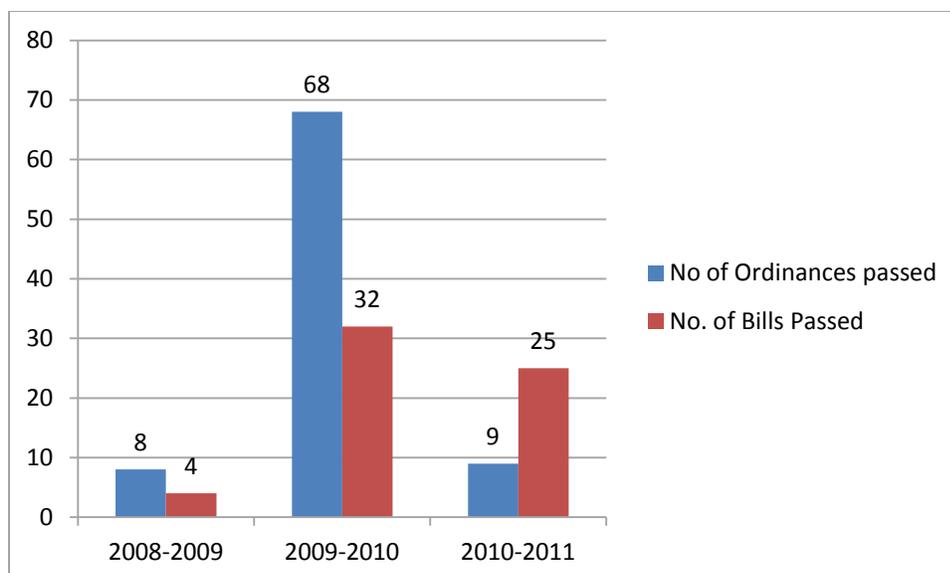
During the 3rd parliamentary Year, a total of 11 Presidential Ordinances were laid in front of the House as compared to 25 bills passed. The Ordinances to Bills ratio stands at 0.44:1 i.e. 0.44 ordinances issued for every law passed during the 3rd year. This is a significant improvement from the previous years as during the 2nd year, the Ordinances to Bills ratio was 2.1:1 (68 Ordinances promulgated compared to 32 laws). During the 1st year, for every bill passed in the National Assembly, 2 presidential ordinances were issued (04 Bills passed compared to 08 Ordinances), a ratio of 2:1.

The average ordinance to bills ratio during the first three years of the 13th National Assembly comes out to be 1.4 ordinances for every law passed (1.4:1). This has improved considerably, as compared to the 12th National Assembly which had witnessed an ordinance to bill ratio of 2.5 ordinances issued against every Act passed (2.5:1) by the 12th National Assembly.⁴

The improvement in the ordinance to bill ratio in 3rd year depicts maturity in Executive's management of the legislative business. More laws passed by the National Assembly translates into more inclusive and democratic legislation. Credit should also be given to the 18th Constitutional Amendment under which the promulgation of ordinances has been restricted.

Figure No. 4: Ordinances versus Bills

⁴ 50 pieces of legislations were passed by the 12th National Assembly in 5 years while 121 Presidential Ordinances were promulgated during this period overshadowing the role of the national legislature. See Performance of the 12th National Assembly of Pakistan, Five Parliamentary Years, November 16, 2002 – November 15, 2007. As accessed on August 08, 2011 Link:<
<http://www.pildat.org/Publications/publication/Democracy&LegStr/5Yearsof12thNationalAssemblyofPakistan-CitizensReport.pdf>>



Questions

The number of questions asked by the members declined 21% from 10572 in the 2nd year to 8321 in the 3rd year. The number of questions asked declined 2% in the 2nd year compared to the 1st year in which 10843 Questions were asked.

Only 28% of the questions asked were answered during the 3rd year while 33% were answered in the 2nd year and 28% were answered in the 1st year. This means that about three-fourth or 73% of the questions went unanswered and were wasted during the 3rd Parliamentary year alone. The situation only worsened in the third year as the percentage of the questions answered decreased.

This is an area of serious concern as lack of an effective system of accepting questions and their disposal through an efficient timeline of receiving answers from concerned ministries and departments is resulting in a declining interest in members to raise issues of national concern in the Assembly in the form of questions.

It is recommended that the National Assembly Committee dealing with the Rules of Procedure and the concerned staff work to see how the percentage of questions answered can be improved. It may require orientations for members to follow the rules and it may also require amendment to rules.

Figure No. 5: Questions

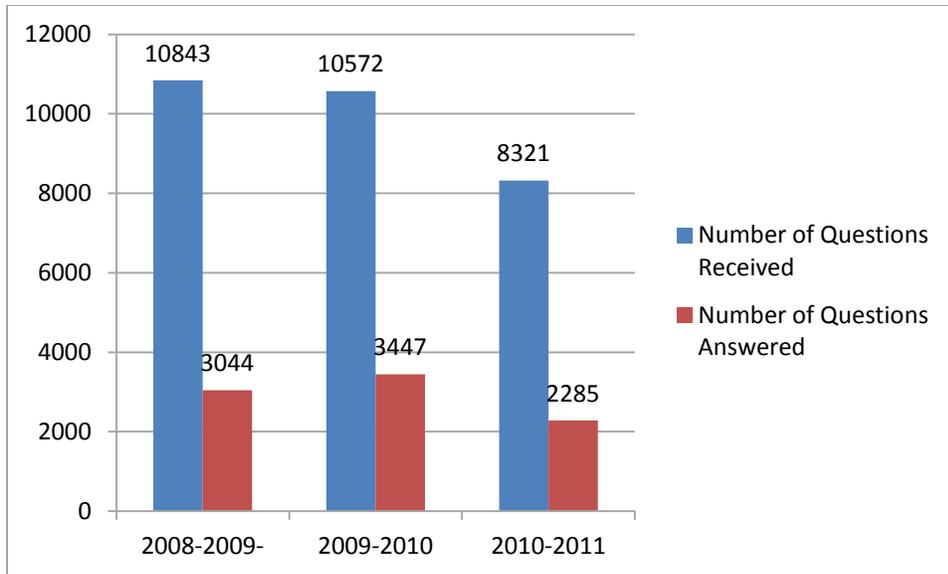


Figure No. 06: Percentage of Questions Answered

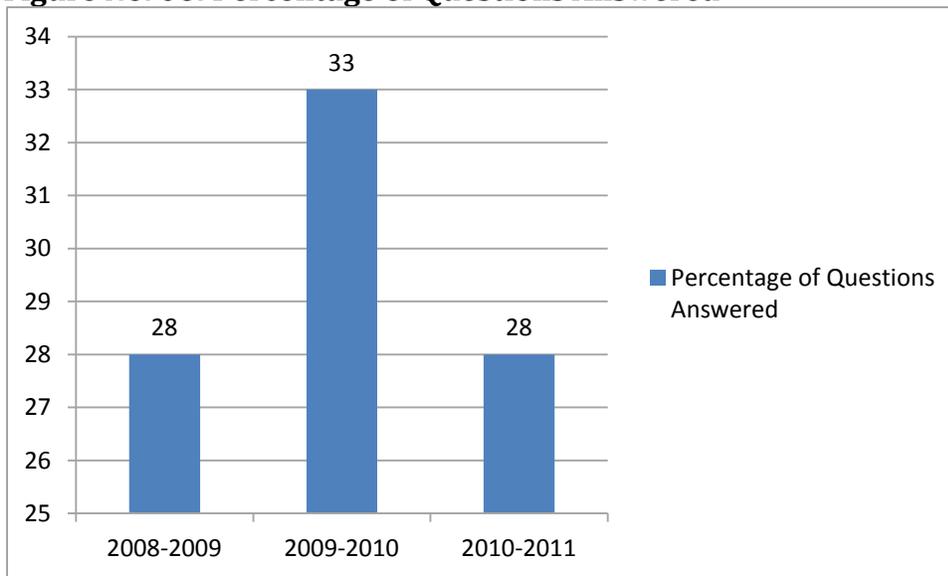
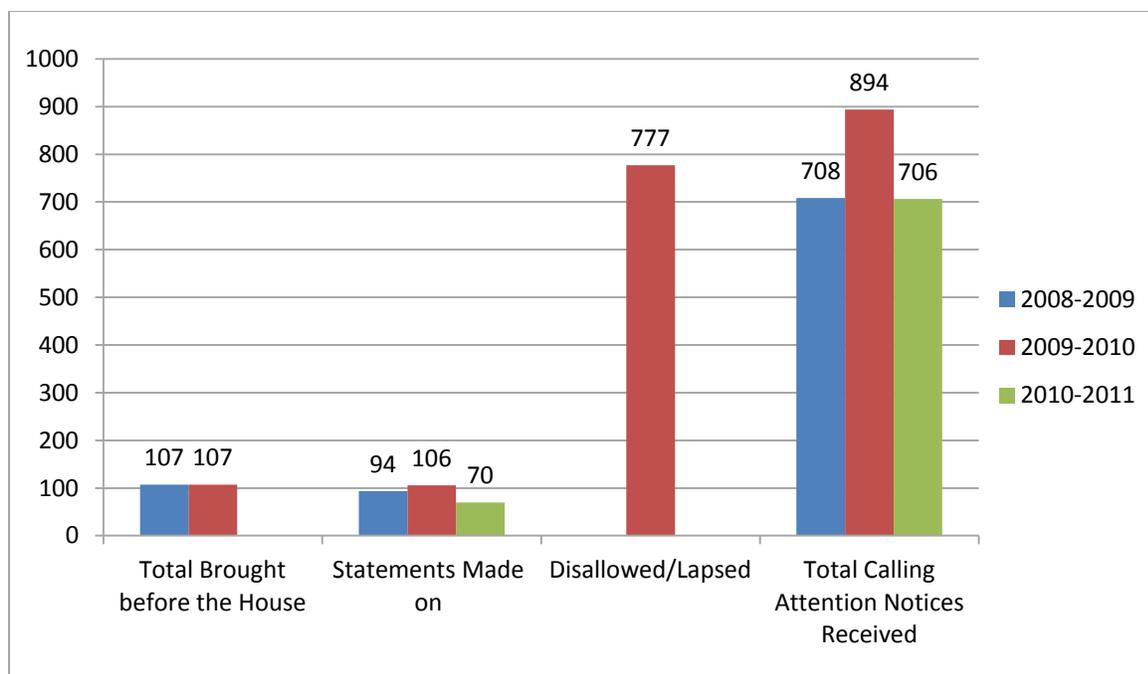


Figure No. 7: Calling Attention Notices



Attendance

The attendance of members continues to be a problem during this year as well. The average attendance remained at 66% during the 3rd parliamentary year compared to 62% in the 2nd year and 74% in the 1st year. Despite this relatively higher attendance percentage, there have been issues of maintaining quorum in the House. At times even 25 % members were not found in the House to maintain the quorum. The system of attendance is such that a member who is present at the time of marking the attendance may leave the House but he or she will be marked present for the entire sitting.

Attendance by the Prime Minister

The Prime Minister attended the Assembly during the 3rd Parliamentary year for a record 99 days which means he attended 95% of the sittings compared to 87% during the 2nd year.⁵ This is one of the highest attendance records by any Prime Minister of Pakistan and should be commended. The Prime Minister also actively takes part in the debates, answers questions etc. However, despite demands, no formal Question Hour for the Prime Minister has been included in the Rules.

Figure No. 8: National Assembly Attendance

⁵ The President's Address to the National Assembly of Pakistan, March 22, 2011, Link:< http://www.na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1306920118_572.pdf>

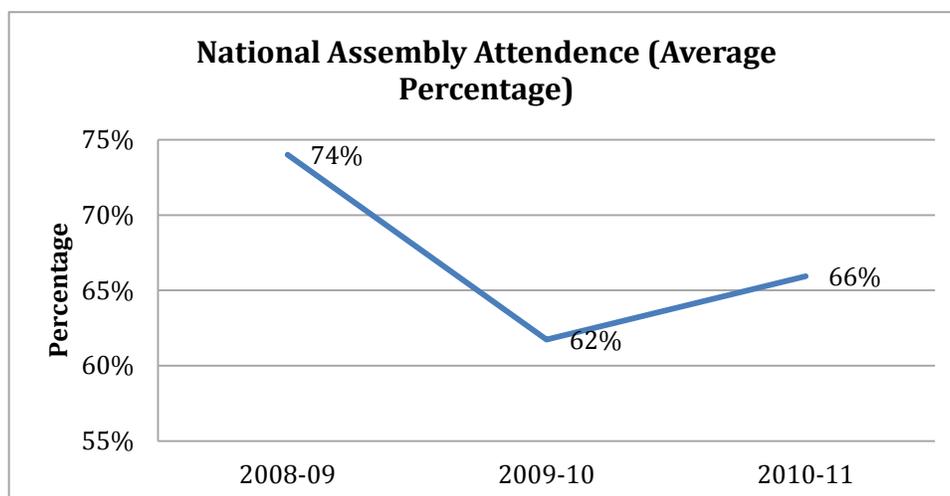
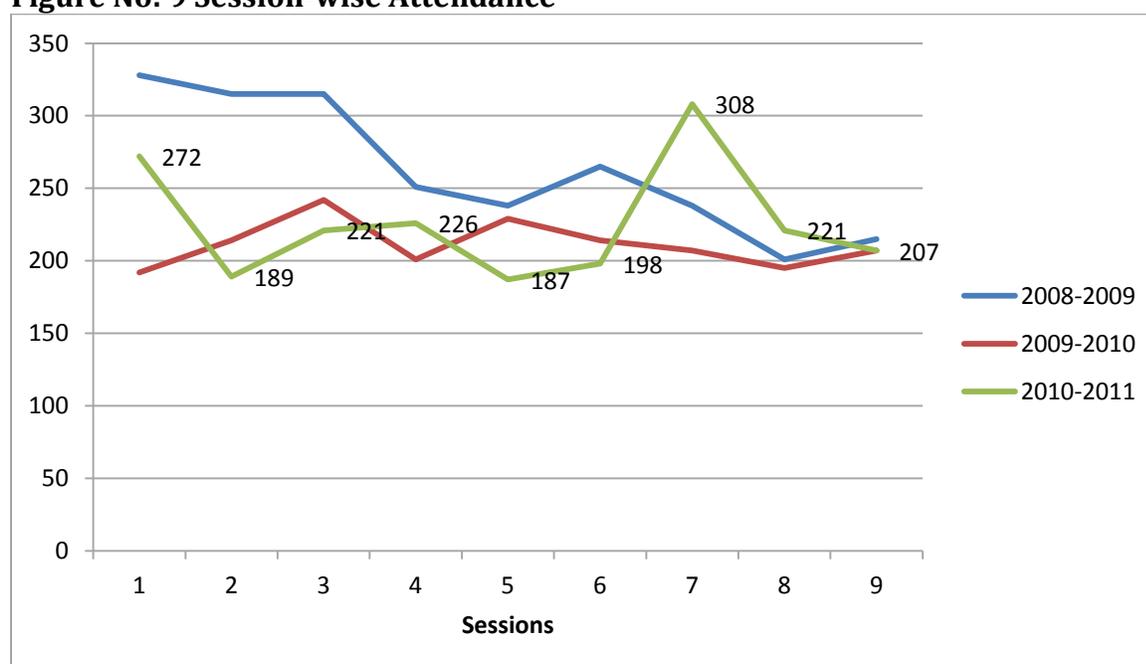


Figure No: 9 Session-wise Attendance



Budget Session

Budget session during the third year (June 05-25, 2010) saw an increase of 2 days from the previous year, i.e. June 13-25, 2009. However, the increase in the number of days did not lead to an increase in the number of hours of debate. This increase in the number of days made no significant difference to the substance of the debate or lack thereof either. There was a serious lack of pre-budget consultation with members and general public. The budget was passed in 12 working days and 40 hours compared to 10 working days and 42 Hours in the 2nd year and 19 working days and 41.46 hours in the 1st year. This signifies a decrease of 5% in 3rd parliamentary year and an increase of 1% during the 2nd year.

Table 2: A comparison of Budget Sessions 1999-2011

	1999-	2003-	2004-	2005-	2006-	2007-	2008-	2009-	2010-

	2000	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total Working Days of the Budget Session	13	5	9	8	13	11	19	10	12
No of Members participated	66	48	191	132	183	187	229	170	161
Total Working Hours	13.60 Hours	09.40 Hours	45.32 Hours	34.20 Hours	55.50 Hours	45.22 Hours	41.46 Hours	42 Hours	40 Hours

The average number of actual working days during Budget Sessions, since 1998-1999 stands at 11.9 days during which the entire process of presentation, discussion and voting on the budget took place. This is in glaring contrast to our neighbouring country India, where the budget process – starting from the presentation of the budget to its passage – has been on the **average 75 days long**.⁶ Similarly, the budget is tabled in the Canadian Parliament in February, while deliberations continue until June 23 and the final approval is granted by June 26, roughly four (04) months after it is tabled.⁷

A continuing decrease is witnessed in the time spent on budget debate across the 4 years of budget sessions in the 13th National Assembly. In the first budget session of the Assembly in 2008, total time spent on budget debate stood at 41.6 hours which slightly increased in year 2009 to 42 hours but decreased to 39 hours in 2010 while witnessing nearly 16% drop in time consumed in budget debate 2011 compared to 2008.

A sharp decline is witnessed in the number of MNAs participating in the budget debate over the last 4 years of the 13th National Assembly. In 2008 budget session, a total of 229 members participated in the budget debate whereas only 139 members participated during the 2011 budget session – indicating a 39 % decline. A similar decrease has been witnessed in the time used by opposition members in budget debate which has decreased 4 per cent from 2008 in budget session 2011.

The dwindling number of participants may be indicative of the waning interest of members in the budget debate. The budget session is considered by many MPs as a mere formality in which not much role is there for MPs to make any significant contribution. Year after year,

⁶ For further reading, please see **Budget and Budgetary Process in the Parliament of India**, PILDAT Background Paper, authored by Mr. Gyana Ranjan Panda, Programme Officer, Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability, Delhi; May 2010 Can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/Publications/Publication/Budget/BudgetandBudgetaryProcessintheParliamentofIndia06052010.pdf>

and Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha’ especially Rules 204-221 and Rule 331G <http://parliamentofindia.nic.in/ls/rules/rules.html>

⁷ For further reading, please see **Parliamentary Budget Process in Pakistan and Canada**, PILDAT Baseline Report, authored jointly by PILDAT and the Parliamentary Centre, Canada; January 2010 can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/Publications/publication/Budget/BASELINEREPORTParliamentaryBudgetProcessinPakistanandCanada100210.pdf>

MPs demand during the budget debate a greater role for influencing the budget at its preparation stages suggesting that the National Assembly should institute a pre-budget session seeking members' input at the start of the federal budget cycle from December to February. It has also been repeatedly suggested that once the budget is presented, the National Assembly should have an increased duration to review it and the demands for grants for ministries should be referred to the respective standing committees for scrutiny before the budget is passed. This key reform in the Parliamentary budget process, however, remains elusive despite various promises made by the sitting Government.

It is also worth mentioning that the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab pioneered the tradition in Pakistan of holding a special session well ahead of the Budget Session as a **Pre-Budget Session** to allow MPAs to give their proposals and input for the next budget and Annual Development Programme. The Assembly has held pre-budget sessions in the period between January-February since 2009. The Punjab Assembly also amended its Rules of Procedure on October 13, 2010 introducing provisions for holding pre-budget discussion in the Assembly.⁸

Committees

There were 49 Standing Committees of the National Assembly, out of which 17 Committees have now been dissolved in line with the devolution of ministries to the provinces under 18th Constitutional Amendment, bringing the total number of Standing Committees at 32.⁹ There are also 3 other special committees namely Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reforms (which has representation from the Senate as well), Parliamentary Committee on National Security (which also has representation from the Senate as well) and Special Committee on Railways. Along with these there are also Committees such as the Parliamentary Committee on Judges Appointments in Superior Courts, with eight members (4 from treasury and 4 from opposition benches), and Parliamentary Committee on appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and members of the Election Commission with 12 members, half of whom are from treasury and half from opposition.

The Parliamentary Committee on Appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and Members of the Elections Commission was notified on February 22, 2011 and is chaired by Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah, MNA (NA-199, Sukkur II, PPP, Sindh).

The Committees held a total of 429 meetings compared to the previous year in which 403 meetings were held and the 1st year in which 91 meetings were held. This shows an

⁸ Amended Rule of the Punjab Assembly: "**Pre-budget discussion.**-(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules, the Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, in consultation with the Finance Minister, shall include, in the list of business, the general discussion seeking proposals of the Members for the next budget in a session of the Assembly which is held during the months of January to March each year.

(2) The general discussion on budget proposals shall take place for at least four days during the session.

(3) The Assembly may recommend the proposals to the Government for the next budget on a resolution moved by the Finance Minister after the conclusion of the discussion." Rule 133-A, Chapter XV-A, Rules of Procedure, Punjab Assembly.

⁹ Those Standing Committees that have been dissolved include: Standing Committees on Culture, Education, Environment, Food and Agriculture, Health, Labour and Manpower Development, Live Stock and Dairy Development, Local Government and Rural Development, Minorities, Population Welfare, Social Welfare and Special Education, Special Initiative, Sports, Tourism, Women Development, Youth Affairs, and Zakat and Ushr.

increase of 343% in the 2nd year and 6% in the 3rd year. This yields an average of 308 meeting per year for the past three years.

Although most of these Committees were formed immediately after the 13th National Assembly was sworn in, 6 of these committees were constituted in the second parliamentary year. 13 of these committees elected chairs during the second parliamentary year.¹⁰ This delay in the election of the Chairman is a waste of precious amount of time despite the condition in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business that the election of the Chair should take place within 30 days of the formation of the Committee. It is recommended that the rules be amended such that the senior most member of the Committee is notified as the interim Chairman of the Committee 30 days after its formation in case the Chairman is not elected. This will at least activate the Committees even if the parties are unable to reach a consensus.

The most active Standing Committees of the National Assembly include **Standing Committee on Health** which held 21 meetings, **Standing Committee on Finance, Planning, Revenue and Development** which held 19 meetings and **Standing Committee on Food and Agriculture** which held 18 meeting during the 3rd Parliamentary year.

Public Accounts Committee

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) headed by the Leader of the Opposition, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan (NA-53 Rawalpindi-IV, Punjab, PML-N), comprises 21 members, 6 from the Opposition and 15 from the ruling party, coalition partners and independents. The Committee has continued to be the most active among the Committees. As it examines federal government audited accounts through reports by the Auditor General, it continues to make recommendations and analysis on government expenditure. The PAC held 46 committee meetings during the third parliamentary year compared to 29 in the 2nd year and 28 in the 1st year; an increase of 3% in the 2nd year and 58% in the 3rd year.

The PAC held an average of 34 meetings per year during the past three years and it has cleared a backlog of audit reports for the past 09 years i.e., 1989-90, 1990-91, 1992-93, 1994-95, 1997-98, 2001-02, 2005-06 and 2008-09. It also presented to the House a Compliance Report 2010 on October 18, 2011.

Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reforms

The Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reforms came into being as a result of the motions passed by the National Assembly and the Senate on April 10, 2009 and April 29, 2009 respectively. The committee was formally constituted on June 23, 2009 through a circular issued by the National Assembly Secretariat. The Committee has 27 members out of which 13 are Members of the National Assembly and 14 are Senators. Despite talk of growing importance of women in the National Assembly, no woman is a part of the Committee. Although the Committee still exists, it is performing no function.

The significance of the Committee lies in the fact that it successfully steered the process of amending 97 out of a total of 280 Articles of the Constitution in the 18th Amendment and 6 more Articles in the 19th Constitutional Amendment following the 18th Amendment Order

¹⁰ A Committee remains non-functional for all practical purposes without a chair.

of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The Committee held 77 meetings for the 18th Constitutional Amendment and 7 meetings for the 19th Constitutional Amendment.

Parliamentary Committee for National Security

In October 2008, an in-camera joint session of the Pakistan Parliament (Senate and the National Assembly) was convened to discuss security situation in the country and devise by consensus a comprehensive strategy to counter terrorism and extremism. The session concluding on October 22, 2008, adopted a joint resolution calling for, among other clauses, *“an urgent review of the national security strategy and revisiting the methodology of combating terrorism in order to restore peace and stability through an independent foreign policy.”* The resolution also called for constituting a *“Special Committee of Parliament ... to periodically review, provide guidelines and monitor the implementation of the principles framed and roadmap given in this resolution.”* It is in this backdrop that a Parliamentary Committee on National Security was formed in November 2008.

The Parliamentary Committee for National Security held 8 meetings during the 3rd year compared to 15 in the 2nd year and 12 in the first year. This shows an increase of 25% in the 2nd year and a decrease of 47% in the 3rd year.¹¹ The Parliamentary Committee on National Security presented a set of recommendation in its April 2009 Report on the basis of the consensus Resolution passed during the Joint Sitting of the Parliament held on October 8-22, 2008. The Committee has, however, complained of lack of implementation of its recommendations.¹²

National Assembly versus the Senate of Pakistan

The 13th National Assembly of Pakistan met for 97 working days in the first year and 104 working days each in the second and third Parliamentary years. In comparison, the Senate of Pakistan met for 62 days in 2008-2009, 70 days in 2009-2010 and 84 days in 2010-2011. This shows that the National Assembly averages at 102 days per year which is 44% higher compared to the Senate which averaged at 71 days per year.¹³ The Senate was required to meet for a minimum of 90 days as per the Constitution before the 18th Constitutional Amendment. This requirement has now been increased to 110 days under the 18th Constitutional Amendment.

The National Assembly spent an average of 2.9 hours per sitting during the 1st parliamentary year 3.49 hours per day during the 3rd year and 3.07 during the third year. In comparison the Senate averaged at 4 hours per sitting during the year 2008-09, 3 hours during the year 2009-10 and 2.8 hours during the year 2010-2011.

¹¹ For a detailed analysis see **Performance of the Parliamentary Committee on Defence and National Security during the first 3 years of the National Assembly of Pakistan**, PILDAT Citizens Monitoring Report, March 15, 2008 to March 15, 2011, May 2011, Link:<
<http://www.pildat.org/Publications/publication/CMR/Report-PerformanceoftheParliamentaryCommitteesofDefenceandNationalSecurityMar08toMar11.pdf>>

¹² No operation Under Foreign Pressure, The News, July 09, 2010 Link:<

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=29931&Cat=13&dt=7/10/2010>>

¹³ It is worth noting that the number of compulsory working days for the Senate of Pakistan has been increased from 90 to 110 through the 18th Constitutional Amendment Article 61 (April 2010).

Similarly, the National Assembly passed 3 Government bills in the 1st year, 29 bills in the 2nd year and 24 bills in the 3rd year. On the other hand the Senate passed 2 Government bills in the year parliamentary year 2008-2009, 12 bills in year 2009-2010 and 25 bills in the year 2010-11. This shows that the National Assembly averages at 19 Government bills per parliamentary year which is 46% more than the Senate which averages at 13 Government bills per year.

As far as the Private Members' bills are concerned, the National Assembly of Pakistan passed 5 bills during the first three years compared to 10 private member bills passed by the Senate in the three parliamentary years (6 in the 1st year, 4 in the 2nd and 0 in the 3rd year), depicting more active involvement of individual Senators in the legislation process.

Positive Initiatives during the 3rd Year of the 13th National Assembly

Passage of the 18th and 19th Constitutional Amendments

The passage of the 18th Constitutional Amendment remains the greatest achievement of the current Parliament till date. The amendment restored the supremacy of the Parliament as envisaged in the original Constitution of 1973 and provided for greater provincial autonomy and put restrictions on the personal discretions of the Executive.

The 18th Amendment Bill, passed on April 08, 2010 in the National Assembly, and April 15, 2010 in the Senate, consisted of 100 Amendments to 97 Articles of the Constitution. The 18th Amendment package was debated for more than 9 months with 982 persons and organizations giving the Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reforms (PCCR) their input. The Amendment was adopted with a rare consensus in both Houses. The vote in National Assembly was 292 in favour and none against while the vote in Senate was 90 in favour and none against.¹⁴ Originally, the mandate of the PCCR was to propose amendments for giving effect to the Charter of Democracy signed between the Leaders of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP). However, the Committee extended its mandate to include the *Transparency, Reduction of individual discretion, Strengthening of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies, Provincial Autonomy, Independence of Judiciary, Strengthening of fundamental rights, Improving merit, Good governance and Strengthening of institutions* as objectives/targets.

Some controversial changes have also been made through the 18th Amendment for example: the condition of intra-Political party elections has been done away with through amending Article 17. Similarly Article 63-A, which deals with defection, has been amended as such so that disqualification for defection will be triggered by the Head of the Party in place of Head of the Parliamentary Party, and the Speaker or Presiding Officer will not be able to sit on i.e. delay the reference.

According to the mechanism laid out in the 18th Constitutional Amendment, there shall be a Judicial Commission and a Parliamentary Committee involved in the process of appointing Judges. The Judicial Commission shall consist of the Chief Justice of Pakistan, two most senior Judges of the Supreme Court, a former Chief Justice or a former judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Federal Ministry for Law and Justice, Attorney General of Pakistan and senior Advocate of the Pakistan Bar Council. The Parliamentary Committee shall consist of eight (8) members, out of which four shall be from the treasury and four from the Opposition benches. In the 18th Constitutional Amendment, the Judicial Commission is responsible for sending out nominations for the judges to the Parliamentary Committee for confirmation and if the Parliamentary Committee does not confirm the nomination, the Commission is to send another nomination.

¹⁴ For details please see **Impact of the 18th Constitutional Amendment on Federation-Province Relations**, PILDAT Briefing Paper, July 2010, Link:<
<http://www.pildat.org/Publications/publication/PAP/Impactofthe18thConstitutionalAmendmentonFederalProvincesRelations-BriefingPaper.pdf>>

The Supreme Court's order on the 18th Amendment, known as the 18th Amendment Order given on October 21, 2010, advised the Parliament to increase the number of the senior judges from two to four in the Judicial Commission, it had also suggested a change in the mechanism which required that the Parliamentary Committee cite sound reasons if it rejects a nomination from the Judicial Commission and if the Judicial Commission resends the nomination after considering the reasons, that nomination shall be deemed final.

According to the 19th Amendment adopted by the Parliament on December 22, 2010, the number of senior Judges in the Judicial Commission has been increased to four from two, in line with the order of the Supreme Court. The nominations of the Commission will be sent to a Parliamentary Committee which can confirm or reject nominations but the Committee will have to cite reasons for rejections. However, the Commission cannot resend a nomination once rejected by the Committee and will have to send a new nomination in place of the one rejected. The 19th Constitutional Amendment has also specified 15 years' experience for the concerned Bar Council representative in the Judicial Commission responsible for nominating High Court Judges.

The Role of the Public Accounts Committee

In any Parliament, Public Accounts Committee plays a vigilant role in the process of accountability. The Public Accounts Committee in the 13th National Assembly was formed on April 10, 2008 and the Chairman was elected on September 19, 2011. The PAC in Pakistan has continued to actively perform its duties in this period in keeping with its performance as the most active committee of the 13th National Assembly during the past 3 years. The Committee held 28 meetings in the first Parliamentary year, 29 in the 2nd (increase of 4%) and 46 in the 3rd year (increase of 59%) with an average of 34 meetings per year. It has cleared a backlog of the past 10 years and recovered Rs. 115 billion.¹⁵ The PAC has now picked up the Audit Reports of year 2008-2009 which is the first year of the incumbent Government. The PAC also successfully probed financial irregularities in the National Logistics Cell (NLC) – an organization generally headed by a senior serving or retired Army officer. On July 01, 2011 the Committee indicted two Lt. Generals and one Major General in the National Logistics Cell (NLC) scam and called upon the Ministry of Defence to move against those indicted. It also directed the Secretary Planning to forward the reports to the National Accountability Bureau's Chairman for further investigation.

Amendment to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly

On December 24, 2010, the National Assembly passed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly. The Amendment in the rules changed the procedure of the election of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. The new rules make submission of nomination papers mandatory. After insertion of two new rules 39 (A) and 39 (B) the opposition benches, under the amended rules, can now remove the Leader of the Opposition with a majority of opposition

¹⁵ Public Accounts Committee: Watchdog Chairman threatens to quit, The Express Tribune, August 14, 2011, Link:< <http://tribune.com.pk/story/231016/public-accounts-committee-watchdog-chairman-threatens-to-quit/>>

members. Earlier there was no clause for the removal of the Leader of the Opposition by the Opposition benches.

An Amendment has also been made in Rule 244 for the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan in line with the 18th Constitutional Amendment to the Constitution. The 18th Constitutional Amendment had necessitated that a Parliamentary Committee will nominate the Election Commissioner of Pakistan. According to Rule 244 (C), (1) there shall be a Parliamentary committee to be constituted by the Speaker in terms of Clause (2B) of Article 213 read with Article 218 of the constitution. (2) The Committee shall comprise 50 per cent members from the treasury benches and 50 per cent from the opposition parties, based on their strength in the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) to be nominated by respective Parliamentary leaders.

Improved Website

The National Assembly has improved its website with regards to presentation of information. More information, for example the verbatim record of House Debates, is also made available on the National Assembly website. This is a step worth commending and the elected leadership of the National Assembly, including the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, deserve credit for making National Assembly information promptly accessible to public for the first time in the history of the country.

Parliament Cafeteria

A staff canteen and Parliamentarians' cafeteria have been renovated and made operational during this year. Contrary to the negative publicity that the Parliament cafeteria provides exceptionally low and subsidized rates of food for MPs, the cafeteria provides food on reasonable rates and its major clientele includes over 1000 members of staff of the Parliament as well as constituents who travel to meet their representatives from far-flung constituencies of Pakistan. Under an arrangement with the Parliament, the caterers running the cafeteria do not have to pay bills of electricity and gas usage and in return provide food on subsidized rates.

Key Areas of Concern

A Downward Trend in the Performance

In almost every sector of the legislative activity, the National Assembly witnessed a decrease in performance from that of last year. These include a decrease in attendance, questions asked, notices received, etc. This may be reflective of the lack of interest in the members of the House. The elected leadership of the National Assembly as well as Parliamentary leaders must look into this trend and find ways to address this.

Need for Improvements in the Budget Process

Parliamentary Control of the Purse Strings is one of the most crucial powers of any Parliament. As the representative of the people, Parliament is the appropriate place to ensure that the Budget best matches the nation's needs with available resources. Such an exercise demands detailed engagement of the Parliament with the Budget Process and this detailed engagement is only possible inside the Standing Committees, an exercise that most democratic countries' Parliaments and Standing Committees perform yearly, including the neighbouring India where Standing Committees take a fixed time period for which the House is adjourned after the General discussion to scrutinize demands for grants before the House discusses the budget as a whole.

Canada offers another example, among other countries, where Parliamentary Committees both consult the people on what should form part of the budget and submit those proposals to the Government, as well as scrutinize estimates / demands for grants of each ministry.

Despite promises by the Government and demands from across the political spectrum inside the National Assembly, the National Assembly yet again failed to institute required reforms in the Parliamentary budget process.

PILDAT's recommendations to strengthen the Parliamentary Budget Process have included holding of pre-budget session of the Parliament as early as February every year to get systematic Parliamentary input for the Budget and Annual Development Programme; holding of hearings by Finance and other Parliamentary Committees to solicit expert and public input for upcoming Budget every year; a sufficient time period for the Standing Committees to review the demands for grants relating to their respective ministries or divisions and extension in the duration of the annual Budget Session to allow a more meaningful input and debate in the Parliament.

Delay in Passage of Accountability Law

Prime Minister, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, in his very first speech in the National Assembly on March 29, 2008, promised to disband the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and create instead an independent Accountability Commission as envisaged in the Charter of Democracy signed by the PML-N and PPP leaders. More than three years down the line, this unfulfilled promise is one of the greatest failings of the current Government and to some extent of the Parliament which has allowed the Holders of Public Offices (Accountability)

Bill 2009 to stay with the National Assembly Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs since its introduction in April 15, 2009.

In an analysis of The Holders of Public Offices (Accountability) Bill 2009,¹⁶ PILDAT termed the bill to be deficient on meaningful accountability provisions for the holders of public offices draft legislation not only limits the scope of accountability, it also fails to meet Pakistan's international obligations such as the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

The disagreements between Pakistan Peoples Party and Pakistan Muslim League (N) may have contributed to the delay in its presentation. According to the media reports, the issues that still need to be resolved are the PML-N's objections on the eligibility for appointment of the head of the proposed commission, "immunity" proposed for a holder of public office for any wrongdoing committed in "good faith" and the repeal of the clause allowing government to ask foreign countries to freeze the accounts and assets of a person involved in any corruption scam in the country.¹⁷

Oversight of Security Sector

Parliamentary control and oversight of the security sector, though an accepted democratic principle in the world, has not been able to take firm root due to peculiar civil-military relations in Pakistan. The principle of Parliamentary oversight on the Executive is enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan mandated mainly through Parliamentary powers of legislation and passage of the budget. Currently, three (03) different Parliamentary Committees have been entrusted with the task of monitoring the defence and security sector, namely the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence, Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production and Parliamentary Committee on National Security.

The analysis of the performance of Pakistani committees on defence and national security¹⁸ shows that much more effort needs to be put in if these committees are to achieve the level of efficiency and effectiveness required for Parliamentary oversight of security sector in Pakistan. An informed interaction needs to take place inside the Parliamentary Committees which should engage in seeking a periodic assessment of the security scenario and offer guidelines. Furthermore, it is important that these committees also maintain a liaison with the public at large to create the ownership of the people on national security policies. Public hearings, inviting public comments and opening these hearings to the media and public will enhance the public trust in the Parliamentary committees, the Parliament as an institution and in the state policies. It is recognized that transparency can

¹⁶ Please see PILDAT Legislative Brief on **The Holders of the Public Offices (Accountability) Bill, 2009** at <http://www.pildat.org/Publications/publication/LB/PILDATLegislativeBrief5-HoldersofPublicOfficesAccountabilityBill2009.pdf>

¹⁷ Consensus bill may be introduced soon, Dawn, September 09, 2010 Link: <http://www.dawn.com/2010/09/09/consensus-bill-may-be-introduced-soon.html>

¹⁸ For a detailed analysis see **Performance of the Parliamentary Committee on Defence and National Security during the first 3 years of the National Assembly of Pakistan**, PILDAT Citizens Monitoring Report, March 15, 2008 to March 15, 2011 May 2011, Link: <http://www.pildat.org/Publications/publication/CMR/Report-PerformanceoftheParliamentaryCommitteesofDefenceandNationalSecurityMar08toMar11.pdf>

not be the principle at the cost of undermining any aspect of national security and therefore committee meetings discussing national security are sometimes needed to be held in camera but this does not need to be the overriding principle in all cases. Parliament, first and foremost, is an accountable institution to the citizens and citizens views, opinions and voices need to be heard and incorporated into policies that define national security priorities for Pakistan.

The National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence did not examine the Defence budget or the demands for grants of the Ministry of Defence until the first three Parliamentary years.¹⁹ Apparently, the Parliament has not yet demanded the details of the Status of Forces Agreement, if there is any, between Pakistan and the US.

Oversight on Foreign Affairs

Despite enormous challenges in the domain of Foreign Policy including ever complex Pak-US relations, Pak-Afghan relations and impasse with India over Mumbai attacks, the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs has shown little interest to oversee or contribute to the foreign policy adopted by the executive in the past three Parliamentary years.²⁰

The National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs held only 16 meetings during three Parliamentary years out of which 09 times (56%) it only convened to meet visiting delegates.²¹ The Committee Chair, Mr. Asfandyar Wali Khan (NA-7, Charsadda-I, KPK, ANP) only chaired 7 out of 16 meetings. The overall attendance of the Committee members hovers around a disappointing 38%, with the Chairman attending only 44% of the meetings. During these three years the Committee did not table any report.

¹⁹ However, the Committee did examine the demands for grants of the Defence Budget 2011-2012 for the first time in start of the fourth Parliamentary year. Official Notice of Meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence dated March 31, 2011. Accessed from the National Assembly Website: www.na.gov.pk on April 13, 2011

²⁰ For a detailed analysis see **Performance of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs during the first three years of the 13th National Assembly of Pakistan**, Citizen's Report, March 2008 – July 2011, Link: <
<http://www.pildat.org/Publications/publication/Democracy&LegStr/PerformanceoftheNAStandingCommitteeonForeignAffairsJuly2011-CitizensReport.pdf>>

²¹ Ibid

Appendices

Comparison of the Legislative Performance of the First three Years of the 13th National Assembly of Pakistan (2008-2011)

Working Days and Hours

Working Days and Working Hours	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2010-2011 Indian Lok Sabha
Total No. of Days the House Met	132	136	140	147
Actual No. of Days the House Met	97	104	104 ²²	81
Total No. of Hours the House Met	277 hours and 15 minutes	355 hours and 20 minutes	300 hours and 35 minutes	282
No. of Hours met Per Day	2.9	3.49	3.07	3.48

Government Bills

Parliamentary Year	2008-2009 (Parliamentary Year-1)	2009-2010 (Parliamentary Year-2)	2010-2011 (Parliamentary Year-3)	2010-2011 Lok Sabha
Bills/Ordinances Introduced/laid	30	90	34	45
Passed	03	29	24	40
Withdrawn	01	2	01	
Pending	26	89	102	

Private Members' Bills

Parliamentary Year	2008-2009 (Parliamentary Year-1)	2009-2010 (Parliamentary Year-2)	2010-2011 (Parliamentary Year-3)	2010-2011 Lok Sabha
Received	104	91	28	--
Introduced	39	64	17	69
Passed	01	03	01	--

Questions

²² The Session was adjourned twice after the assassination of Governor Punjab Salman Taseer on January 04, 2011 and Federal Minister for Minorities, Clement Shahbaz Bhatti on March 04, 2011 without taking up any agenda on the orders of the day.

Parliamentary Year	2008-2009 (Parliamentary Year-1)	2009-2010 (Parliamentary Year-2)	2010-2011 (Parliamentary Year-3)
Received	10843	10572	8321
Admitted	-	5625	-
Admitted but lapsed	2852	2370	1674
Answered	3044	3447	2285
Processed but Lapsed	2749	3308	3318

Calling Attention Notices

Parliamentary Year	2008-2009 (Parliamentary Year-1)	2009-2010 (Parliamentary Year-2)	2010-2011 (Parliamentary Year-3)
Received	708	894	706
Statements Made on	94	106	70
Disallowed/Lapsed	-	777	-
Total brought before the House	-	107	-

Privilege Motions

Parliamentary Year	2008-2009 (Parliamentary Year-1)	2009-2010 (Parliamentary Year-2)	2010-2011 (Parliamentary Year-3)
Total Privilege Motions Received	50	60	76
Brought before the House	08	19	23
Referred to the Standing Committee	07	18	25
Motions disallowed	-	9	-

Adjournment Motions

Parliamentary Year	2008-2009 (Parliamentary Year-1)	2009-2010 (Parliamentary Year-2)	2010-2011 (Parliamentary Year-3)
Total Adjournment Motions Received	367	402	409
Brought before the House	15	28	24

Referred to the Standing Committee	01	-	2
Lapsed	-	124	22
Discussed in the House	-	13	11
Disallowed	144	242	-

Motions under Rule 259

(Motion that Policy, Situation, Statement or any other matter be taken into consideration)

Parliamentary Year	2008-2009 (Parliamentary Year-1)	2009-2010 (Parliamentary Year-2)	2010-2011 (Parliamentary Year-3)
Total Motions Received under Rule 259	305	658	304
Total Motions Admitted but Lapsed	140	616	208
Discussed in the house	05	-	1
Disallowed	-	40	-

Meetings of the Ministries-Related Parliamentary Committees of the 13th National Assembly of Pakistan²³
(March 17, 2010 - March 16, 2011)

No.	NAME OF THE COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSON	Date the Committee was formed	Date chair was elected	No of Days Meeting Held during the 3 rd Parliamentary Year (March 17, 2010- March 16, 2011)
1	Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat	Dewan Ashiq Hussain Bokhari	April 24, 2008	April, 27, 2008	14
2	Standing Committee on Commerce	Engr. Khurram Dastagir	April 24, 2008	October 04, 2008	16
3	Standing Committee on Communications	Mr. Saeed Ahmad Zafar	April 24, 2008	March 16, 2009	8
4	Standing Committee on Culture (<i>dissolved</i>)	Mr. Muhammad Raza Hayat Hiraj	April 24, 2008	April 24, 2008	04
5	Standing Committee on Defence	Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho	April 24, 2008	February, 17, 2009	16
6	Standing Committee on Defence Production	Shiekh Aftab Ahmad	April 24, 2008	October 20, 2008	03
7	Standing Committee on Economic Affairs and Statistics	Malik Azmat Khan	April 24, 2008	May 15, 2009	06
8	Standing Committee on Education (<i>dissolved</i>)	Ch. Abid Sher Ali	April 24, 2008	October 23, 2008	14
9	Standing Committee on Environment (<i>dissolved</i>)	Raja Muhammad Asad Khan	April 24, 2008	October 23, 2008	13
10	Standing Committee on Finance, Planning, Revenue and Development	Ms. Fauzia Wahab	April 14, 2008	October 22, 2008	19

²³ Out of these 49 Committees, 17 have been dissolved in line with the 18th Constitutional Amendment. However, detail of meetings have been provided for 49 Committees here. On December 07, 2010 five committees namely Local Government and Rural Development, Population Welfare, Special Initiatives, Youth Affairs and Zakat and Usr were dissolved. Similarly, on April 12, 2011 five more committees were dissolved including Culture, Education, Livestock and Dairy Development, Social Welfare and Special Education and Tourism. On July 04, 2011 seven more namely Environment, Food and Agriculture, Health, Labour and Manpower, Minorities, Sports and Women Development were dissolved.

No.	NAME OF THE COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSON	Date the Committee was formed	Date chair was elected	No of Days Meeting Held during the 3rd Parliamentary Year (March 17, 2010- March 16, 2011)
11	Standing Committee on Food and Agriculture <i>(dissolved)</i>	Mr. Javed Iqbal Warraich	April 24, 2008	February 26, 2009	18
12	Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs	Mr. Asfand Yar Wali	April 24, 2008	September 17, 2008	07
13	Standing Committee on Government Assurances	Mr. Mahmood Hayat Khan Tochi Khan			08
14	Standing Committee on Health <i>(dissolved)</i>	Dr. Nadeem Ehsan	April 24, 2008	October 22, 2008	21
15	Standing Committee on House and Library	Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi		-	06
16	Standing Committee on Housing and Works	Mr. Pervaiz Khan	April 24, 2008	January 13, 2009	07
17	Standing Committee on Human Rights	Mr. Riaz Hussain Fatyana	April 23, 2008	-	22
18	Standing Committee on Industries and Production	Mr. Ghous Bux Khan Mahar	April 24, 2008	April 20, 2008	04
19	Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting	Mrs. Belum Hasnain		May 06, 2009	08
20	Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication	Ch. Muhammad Barjees Tahir	April 14, 2008	October 20, 2008	16
21	Standing Committee on Inter-provincial Coordination	Mir Ahmadian Khan Bugti	April 23, 2009	April 24, 2009	06
22	Standing Committee on Interior	Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel	April 24, 2008	February 17, 2009	04
23	Standing Committee on Kashmir Affairs and	Shahzada Mohi-ud-Din	April 14, 2008	April 23, 2009	00

No.	NAME OF THE COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSON	Date the Committee was formed	Date chair was elected	No of Days Meeting Held during the 3 rd Parliamentary Year (March 17, 2010- March 16, 2011)
	Gilgit Baltistan				
24	Standing Committee on Labour and Manpower (<i>dissolved</i>)	Dr. Ghulam Haider Samejo	April 24, 2008	April 23, 2009	12
25	Standing Committee on Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs	Begum Nasim Akhtar Chaudhry	April 14, 2008	February 24, 2009	11
26	Standing Committee on Livestock and Dairy Development (<i>dissolved</i>)	Jam Mir Muhammad Yousaf	April 23, 2009	April 24, 2009	03
27	Standing Committee on Local Government and Rural Development (<i>dissolved</i>)		April 24, 2008	October 22, 2008	06
28	Standing Committee on Minorities (<i>dissolved</i>)	Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani	April 24, 2008	March 06, 2009	10
29	Standing Committee on Narcotics Control	Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi	April 24, 2008	October 23, 2008	00
30	Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis	Vacant	April 23, 2008	May 06, 2009	00
31	Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Resources	Sheikh Waqas Akram	April 24, 2008	April 23, 2009	13
32.	Standing Committee on Population Welfare (<i>dissolved</i>)		April 24, 2008	February 24, 2009	02
33	Standing Committee on Ports and Shipping	Rana Mahmood-ul-Hassan	April 24, 2008	October 20, 2008	05
34	Standing Committee on	Pir Muhammad	April 23,	June 29,	08

No.	NAME OF THE COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSON	Date the Committee was formed	Date chair was elected	No of Days Meeting Held during the 3 rd Parliamentary Year (March 17, 2010- March 16, 2011)
	Postal Services	Aslam Bodla	2009	2009	
35	Standing Committee on Privatization and Investment	Malik Bilal Rehman	April 24, 2008	October 20, 2008	04
36	Standing Committee on Railways	Sardar Ayaz Sadiq	April 24, 2008	October 23, 2008	08
37	Standing Committee on Religious Affairs	Moulana Muhammad Qasim	April 24, 2008	October 20, 2008	02
38	Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure	Mr. Nadeem Afzal Gondal		October 22, 2008	16
39	Standing Committee on Science and Technology	Abdul Qadir Khanzada	April 10, 2008	October 22, 2008	14
40	Standing Committee on Special Initiatives (<i>dissolved</i>)		April 24, 2009	-	7
41	Standing Committee on Social Welfare and Special Education (<i>dissolved</i>)	Mrs. Rubina Saadat Qaim Khani	April 24, 2008	February 25, 2009	08
42	Standing Committee on Sports (<i>dissolved</i>)	Mr. Iqbal Muhammad Ali Khan	April 24, 2008	May 13, 2009	06
43	Standing Committee on State and Frontier Region (SAFRON)	Mr. Sajid Hussain Turi (Mr. Pervez Khan)	April 10, 2008	October 21, 2008	07
44	National Assembly Standing Committee on	Haji Muhammad Akram Ansari	April 24, 2008	October 23, 2008	11

No.	NAME OF THE COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSON	Date the Committee was formed	Date chair was elected	No of Days Meeting Held during the 3 rd Parliamentary Year (March 17, 2010- March 16, 2011)
	Textile Industry				
45	Standing Committee on Tourism (<i>dissolved</i>)	Mr. Muhammad Usman Advocate	April 24, 2008	October 15, 2009	08
46	Standing Committee on Water and Power	Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah	April 24, 2008	September 17, 2008	07
47	Standing Committee on Women Development (<i>dissolved</i>)	Ms. Bushra Gohar	April 24, 2008	January 13, 2009	13
48.	Standing Committee on Youth Affairs (<i>dissolved</i>)		April 10, 2008	May 13, 2009	05
49.	Standing Committee on Zakat and Ushr (<i>dissolved</i>)		April 10, 2008		03
50.	Total				429

The Public Accounts Committee

Committee	Chairman	No. of meetings March 17, 2008 - March 16, 2009	No. of meetings March 17, 2009 - March 16, 2010	No. of meetings March 17, 2010 - March 16, 2011
Public Accounts Committee	Ch. Nisar Ali Khan	28	29	46

Meetings of Other Committees
(March 17, 2010 - March 16, 2011)

No.	NAME OF THE COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSON	Date the Committee was formed	Date the Chair was elected	No of meetings held during the 3 rd Parliamentary Year (March 17, 2010 to March 16, 2011)
1.	Special Committee of the Parliament	Maulana Fazal-ul-	April 24, 2008	September	20

	on Kashmir	Rahman		16, 2008	
2.	Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reforms	Mian Raza Rabbani	April 10, 2009	June 25, 2009	07
03.	Finance Committee of the National Assembly	Dr. Fehmida Mirza			14

Appendix C

Details of the Bills Passed by the 13th National Assembly ²⁴

No.	Date	Name of the Bill
3rd Parliamentary Year (March 17, 2010 to March 16, 2011)		
1.	Thursday, February 24, 2011	The Banking Companies (Amendment) Act, 2010
2.	Thursday, February 24, 2011	The Federal Board of Revenue (Amendment) Act, 2010
3.	Monday, February 21, 2011	The National Defence University Act, 2009
4.	Wednesday, February 02, 2011	The Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority Act, 2010
5.	Tuesday, February 01, 2011	The Privatization Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2010
6.	Thursday, January 27, 2011	The Recognition and Enforcement (Arbitration Agreements and Foreign Arbitral Awards) Act, 2010
7.	Thursday, January 27, 2011	The Boilers and Pressure Vessels (Amendment) Act, 2009
8.	Wednesday, December 29, 2010	Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Funa and Flora Act, 2010
9.	Wednesday, December 29, 2010	Pakistan Engineering Council (Amendment) Act, 2010
10.	Thursday, December 23, 2010	The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2008
11.	Wednesday, December 22, 2010	The Constitution (Nineteenth Amendment) Act, 2010
12.	Thursday, November 11, 2010	The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2010
13.	Monday, November 08, 2010	The National Database and Registration Authority (Amendment) Act, 2010

²⁴ 06 Bills were passed twice by the National Assembly (05 from the previous calendar year). They are only included once in the total count, as per the NA procedure

14.	Friday, November 05, 2010	The West Pakistan Regulation and Control of Loudspeakers and Sound amplifiers (Amendment) Act, 2010
15.	Friday, November 05, 2010	The Arbitration (International Investment Disputes) Act, 2010
16.	Thursday, November 04, 2010	The State Bank of Pakistan (Amendment) Act, 2010
17.	Thursday, November 04, 2010	The Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design Act, 2009
18.	Thursday, November 04, 2010	The Industrial Development Bank of Pakistan (Reorganization and Conversion) Act, 2010
19.	Wednesday, November 03, 2010	The Oil and Gas Regularity Authority (Amendment) Act, 2008
20.	Wednesday, October 06, 2010	The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (Amendment) Act, 2010
21.	Wednesday, October 06, 2010	The Sacked Employees Reinstatement Act, 2010
22.	Monday, October 04, 2010	The National disaster Management Act, 2010
23.	Monday, October 04, 2010	The Federal Employees Benevolent Fund and Group Insurance (Amendment) Act, 2010
24.	Thursday, September 30, 2010	The Degree Awarding Status to Dawood College of Engineering and Technology Karachi, Act 2010
25.	Thursday, September 23, 2010	The Competition Act, 2010
26.	Wednesday, June 30, 2010	The Islamabad High Court Act, 2010
27.	Monday, June 28, 2010	The Benazir Income Support Programme Act, 2010
28.	Friday, June 25, 2010	Finance Act, 2010
29.	Monday, May 10, 2010	The Islamabad High Court Act, 2010
30.	Thursday, April 08, 2010	The Constitution (Eighteenth Amendment) Act, 2010
31.	Wednesday, March 31, 2010	The Alternative Energy Development Board Act, 2010
2nd Parliamentary Year (March 17, 2009 to March 16, 2010)		
32.	Friday, March 12, 2010	The Pakistan Penal Code (Amendment) Act, 2010
33.	Thursday, March 11, 2010	The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2009

34.	Monday, February 22, 2010	The Pakistan Naval Academy (Award of Degrees) (Amendment) Act, 2010
35.	Thursday, February 18, 2010	The Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority Act, 2010
36.	Thursday, February 18, 2010	The National School of Public Policy (Amendment) Act, 2010
37.	Thursday, February 18, 2010	The Patents (Amendment) Act, 2010
38.	Monday, February 08, 2010	The Banking Companies (Amendment) Act, 2009
39.	Friday, January 29, 2010	The Institute of Space Technology Act, 2009
40.	Thursday, January 28, 2010	The National Command Authority Act, 2009
41.	Wednesday, January 27, 2010	The Competition Act, 2009
42.	Wednesday, January 27, 2010	The Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2009
43.	Wednesday, January 27, 2010	The Pakistan Engineering Council (Amendment) Act, 2009
44.	Tuesday, January 26, 2010	The Removal from Service (Special Powers) Ordinance, 2000 (Repeal) Act, 2010
45.	Thursday, January 21, 2010	The Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010
46.	Thursday, January 21, 2010	The Service Tribunals (Amendment) Act, 2010
47.	Monday, January 18, 2010	The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics Act, 2009
48.	Wednesday, January 13, 2010	The Public Defender and Legal Aid Office Act, 2009
49.	Thursday, November 12, 2009	The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 2009
50.	Wednesday, November 04, 2009	The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2009
51.	Wednesday, October 14, 2009	The Federal Board of Revenue (Amendment) Act, 2009
52.	Thursday, October 08, 2009	The Stock Exchanges (Corporatisation, Demutualization and Integration) Act, 2008
53.	Thursday, October 08, 2009	The NFC Institute of Engineering and Technology Multan Act, 2009

54.	Thursday, October 08, 2009	The Modaraba Companies and Modaraba (Floatation and Control) (Amendment) Act, 2009
55.	Wednesday, August 19, 2009	The Guardians and Wards (Amendment) Act, 2008
56.	Wednesday, August 19, 2009	The Family Courts (Amendment) Act, 2008
57.	Wednesday, August 12, 2009	The Anti-Dumping Duties (Amendment) Act, 2008
58.	Wednesday, August 12, 2009	The Cotton Standardization (Amendment) Act, 2008
59.	Wednesday, August 12, 2009	The Election Law (Amendment) Bill, 2009
60.	Thursday, August 06, 2009	Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2008
61.	Tuesday, August 04, 2009	Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2009
62.	Monday, August 03, 2009	Rulers of Acceding States (Abolition of Privy Purses and Privileges) (Amendment) Act, 2008
63.	Monday, June 22, 2009	Finance Bill 2009

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64.	Wednesday, November 19, 2008	The Industrial Relations Bill, 2008
65.	Tuesday, November 18, 2008	The Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services Act, 2008
66.	Friday, August 15, 2008	Pakistan International Airline Corporation (Suspension of Trade Unions and Existing Agreements) Order (Repeal) Act, 2008
67.	Sunday, June 22, 2008	Finance Bill 2008
68.	Monday, June 09, 2008	The Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2008