



The National Assembly of Pakistan Gazette



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Secretary's Message



Since my posting in the National Assembly Secretariat, efforts are underway to enhance the productivity of the institution under the wise leadership of Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. One of these endeavors is to improve the quality of National Assembly of Pakistan Gazette. The Gazette was started for the first time in 90s but could not be continued after 1999. However, its online publication was resumed from September 2013 and its quality is being continuously improved.

As the Gazette is one of the important medium for disseminating information about various activities taking place in National Assembly and its Secretariat, special attention is now being paid to renovating it and bringing diversity in its contents and scope. Presently, it is only published online on National Assembly's website and being sent to Honorable MNAs and officers in soft form; however we plan to move towards the printing of Gazette. The revival of National Assembly Gazette is surely going to play a very important role in modernization of the Parliament, a drive initiated by current government. Its printing will be another milestone in the history of the Research Centre.

I extend my full support to the whole team working on The National Assembly of Pakistan Gazette and hope that very soon it will become one of the leading publications to strengthen the democratic norms in Pakistan and highlight the soft image of our country.

(Mohammad Riaz)



House Business

Two Joint Sessions of both the Houses and a Session of the National Assembly were held during the month of April. The 4th Joint Session was started on Monday, 6th April 2015. It was prorogued on Friday, 10th April 2015. The Session continued for 13hours and 15minutes. The 5th Joint Session was started on Tuesday, 21st April 2015 and prorogued on the same day. This Session continued for 1hour and 2 minutes. The 21st Session of the National Assembly was started on Monday, the 20th April 2015. It was prorogued on Wednesday, 29th April 2015. The important house business of the month of April 2015 is summarized below:

Resolution Passed by NA

* Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs and Statistics moved the following resolution on 10th April 2015, which was unanimously passed by the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) :

“Having considered the grave situation in Yemen and its implications for regional and international peace and security; and Having noted that the war in Yemen is not sectarian in nature but has the potential of turning into a sectarian conflict, which will have a critical fallout in the region, including Pakistan, The Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) of Pakistan:

1. Appreciates the decision of the Government to call the Joint Sitting of Parliament to consider Pakistan’s response to the crisis in Yemen;
2. Expresses serious concern on the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Yemen and its implications for peace and stability of the region and supports all humanitarian initiatives aimed at bringing relief to the people caught in the conflict;
3. Calls upon the warring factions in Yemen to resolve their differences peacefully through dialogue;
4. Appreciates the arrangements made by the Government for the safe and swift evacuation of Pakistanis and nationals of many other countries from Yemen and expresses its gratitude to the People’s Republic of China for its contribution in this regard;
5. Apprehends that the crisis in Yemen could plunge the region into turmoil;
6. Supports regional and international efforts for restoration of peace and stability in Yemen;
7. Underscores the need for continued efforts by the Government of Pakistan to find a peaceful resolution of the crisis, while promoting the unity of Muslim Ummah, in cooperation with the leaders of other Muslim countries;
8. Desires that Pakistan should maintain neutrality in the Yemen conflict so as to be able to play a proactive diplomatic role to end the crisis;
9. Urges the Muslim Ummah and the international community to intensify their efforts to promote peace in Yemen;
10. Expresses unequivocal support for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and affirms that in case of any violation of its territorial integrity or any threat to **Haramain Sharifain**, Pakistan will stand shoulder to shoulder with Saudi Arabia and its people;
11. Expresses deep concern at the increasing threats posed by different terrorist groups and non-state actors to the security and stability of the region and advises the Government of Pakistan to enhance its friendship and cooperation with the GCC and all other regional countries in combating extremism and terrorism; and
12. Desires that the Government of Pakistan initiate steps to move the UN Security Council and the OIC to bring about an immediate cease-fire in Yemen.”

Points of orders

1) Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah, Leader of the Opposition on 6th April 2015 drew attention of the Chair towards misconception between the Government and party policy of PML (N). He also said that the Prime Minister of Pakistan should have been present in the House during discussion on “Yemen crisis”. He suggested that the session should be suspended till 5.00 p.m. today to make it convenient for the Prime Minister to attend the session. Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister for Defence informed the House that the honourable Prime Minister was busy with the Sri Lankan President as his visit was already scheduled. Mr. Speaker suspended the sitting of the session till 5.00 p.m.



2) Dr. Muhammad Farooq Sattar, MNA on 6th April 2015 drew attention of the Chair towards serious violation of Article 64 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and demanded that the Speaker should look into the matter of resignations of the members of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The Honourable Speaker while giving ruling referred to the Supreme Court decision, Order No. 504 and Article 64 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and clarified the position.

Motions passed by National Assembly

Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister for Defence moved the following motion on 6th April 2015 which was adopted by the House:

“This House may discuss security situation due to Yemen crisis.”

Calls On

Sri Lankan President called on NA Speaker

On 6th April 2015, Speaker, National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq met Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena in Islamabad. The meeting was held in cordial atmosphere where a number of issues of common interest between the two countries and ways and means of strengthening relations, were discussed.

The Speaker said that Pakistan and Sri Lanka are historically bonded in a relationship of trust, mutual respect and deep friendship which is manifested at all the phases of their history. Pakistan is committed to further deepen the relations through enhancing parliamentary and economic cooperation with Sri Lanka, he added.

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena acknowledged the sentiments of the Speaker and said that his government also attaches immense importance to its relations with Pakistan and wants to further cement them through cooperation in diverse fields. He said that opportunities and potential for mutual cooperation between two countries are immense and very promising; therefore, Sri Lanka would continue strengthen its trade and commercial relations. He recognized the support extended by the government of Pakistan during Sri Lankan war against terrorism and said that Pakistan’s unflinching support during the three decades of internal conflict has immensely helped in the elimination of terrorism from Sri Lanka.



Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House on 06.04.2015



Iranian Foreign Minister called on NA Speaker

On 9th April 2015, Foreign Minister of Iran Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting was held in cordial atmosphere where ways and means to further intensify Pak-Iran bilateral relations besides forging unity amongst the Muslim Ummah were discussed. The Speaker welcomed the Iranian Foreign Minister and underlined the importance the people and government of Pakistan attached to the long standing brotherly relations between the two brotherly countries. He congratulated Iran on the successful negotiations in Switzerland leading to the agreement on Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action regarding Iran's nuclear programme. He further said that there was a broader consensus amongst all for forging unity in the Muslim ranks for devising common strategies for tackling common threats. This was a sentiment widely shared by the people of Pakistan, the Speaker said. The Speaker also informed about the ongoing military initiative against the militants in tribal belt of Pakistan. He said that strong political support from all political forces had strengthened government and armed forces' efforts to eliminate the scourge of terrorism from the country. He said that the military operation would go on till terrorism was exterminated from the Pakistani soil.

The Iranian Foreign Minister said that Iran had special affection for their Pakistani brethren and strongly believed in the need for further strengthening of these relations. He said that continuous interaction between the political and parliamentary leadership from both countries would help further cement Pak-Iran relations. The Iranian Foreign Minister agreed that Muslim leaders should play their role for bringing Ummah on same page to counter common threats and challenges. He expressed satisfaction on the good relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. He also briefed the Speaker about his interaction with Turkish and Pakistani leadership. He was confident that collective efforts by Muslim countries would lead to a peaceful resolution of the ongoing Yemeni crisis.

Both leaders emphasized the need for sustained and concerted efforts by the Muslim leaders for promotion of shared values, safeguarding the interests of Ummah and promoting solidarity. They agreed that unity amongst the Ummah would usher in a new era of progress and prosperity.



Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister of Iran called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House on 09.04.2015

A group of Civil Servants called on Speaker NA

On 14th April 2015, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq met with a group of senior officers and faculty members of National School of Public Policy at Parliament House. He advised the Civil Servants not to get influenced by any political pressure and perform their duties as servants to the people and the state, fearlessly, honestly and with dedication. He said that service delivery to the nation with determination would be a great service to the country.



While talking to the Senior Officers, the Speaker said that each one of them clearly understood their own sphere of duty and responsibility and should act with others harmoniously in complete cooperation and diligence. He said that they should discharge their duties honestly and sincerely without succumbing to any kind of pressure.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that present parliament consists of progressive forces and all the issues of national importance were discussed in the House which provides guidelines to the government for future policy formulation. He said that vibrant parliamentary committee system and parliamentary oversight on the public spending has introduced a system of checks and balances on the Executive Branch of the government. He was confident that with the passage of time, democratic institutions in the country would strengthen.

The Speaker informed the officers about his initiatives of parliamentary diplomacy, austerity drive in the expenditures of the Secretariat, energy audit for identifying energy wastage, capacity building of the human resource, and creation of paperless environment and electrification of Parliament building on solar energy with the assistance of Chinese government. The Speaker also spoke about his initiative to launch Parliamentary Studies Degree Programmes in private and public sector universities. He was confident that this initiative will indeed provide the impetus towards a more robust, effective and efficient Parliament.

The Speaker responded to the various questions raised by the officers. The Rector National Management College thanked the Speaker for sharing his vision and working of the Parliament and its activities. Finally souvenirs were also exchanged.

Committee Meetings

Committee on Law, Justice and Human Rights

A meeting of the Standing Committee on Law, Justice & Human Rights was held on 2nd April 2015 at the Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Chaudhry Mahmood Bashir Virk.

The following agenda was discussed during the meeting:

- * Islamabad Subordinate Judiciary Service Tribunal Bill, 2015.
- * The Hindu Marriage Bill, 2015

The Secretary, Ministry of Law, Justice & Human Rights briefed the Committee on the Islamabad Subordinate Judiciary Service Tribunal Bill, 2015. The Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Human Rights discussed the Bill in detail. After depth deliberation of the Bill, the Committee unanimously passed the Bill with certain amendments.

The Committee decided to defer the Hindu Marriage Bill, 2015 keeping in view the sensitivity of the Bill. The participation of the Members National Assembly from the Hindu community may be ensured in the next Committee



Chaudhry Mahmood Bashir Virk , Chairman Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Human Rights chairing the committee meeting at Parliament House on 02.04.2015



meeting.

The meeting was attended by MNAs: Justice (Retd) Iftikhar Ahmad Cheema, Chaudhary Muhammad Asif, Mr. Muhammad Moeen Wattoo, Ms. Kiran Haider, Syed Naveed Qamar and Ms. Aisha.

Committee on Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony

A meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony was held on 3rd April 2015 at the Parliament House Islamabad under the chairmanship of Syed Imran Ahmad Shah. The agenda of the meeting was detailed discussion on Hajj Policy, 2015 and Private Member's Bill regarding the education of Holy Quran according recitation by sighting and with translation, learning by heart and with correct pronunciation Bill, 2014.

The Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony briefed the committee that the applications under Government scheme would be invited w.e.f. 15th April, 2015 through designated Banks till 23rd April, 2015 and successful applications would be declared after balloting on 28th April, 2015. The first come first serve scheme has been abolished. There will be no free Hajj as per practice in vogue.

The original Hajj quota of 179,210 allocated to Pakistan has been reduced by 20% due to expansion of Haram Sharif and is accordingly fixed at 143,368. Hajj Scheme 2015 will be implemented through Government Hajj Scheme and Private Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs) at the ratio of 50:50. The rent in Makkah Mukarramah will be charged on actual basis from pilgrims and at Madinah Munawwarah at a flat rate of SR.600/- per pilgrim. Hujjaj will be airlifted by designated air carriers as per Air Services Agreement. International Machine Readable Passport, NADRA Identity Card and medical certificate shall be mandatory.

The committee was further informed that it was proposed that there will be a Parliamentary Hajj Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony to advise work plan, policy, planning and management of Hajj operation 2015 in Pakistan as well as in the Kingdom of Saudia Arabia and suggest measures for improvement of welfare services for Hujjaj. Besides, the Advisory Committee may also oversee the hiring process and the buildings hired by the Hiring Committee.

The Committee discussed the Private Member's Bill regarding the education of Holy Quran according recitation by sighting and with translation, learning by heart and with correct pronunciation Bill, 2014 moved by Sahibzada Muhammad Yaqub. The Secretary Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony informed the Committee that they had no objection on the education of Nazra Quran with translation, Hifz, Tajweed. The Committee referred the Bill to Ministry of Education for further discussion in the Inter Provincial Education Ministers Conference (IPEMC) for further decision.

The meeting was attended by MNAs: Mr. Bhawan Das, Ms. Shahida Akhtar Ali, Sahibzada Muhammad Yaqub, Molvi Agha Muhammad, Sher Akbar Khan, Shaista Pervaiz along with Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony and officials of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Ministry of Education, Ministry of CA&DD, Ministry of Defence.



Syed Imran Shah, chairing the committee meeting of the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on 03.04.2015



Committee on Cabinet Secretariat

1) A meeting of the Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat was held on 3rd April 2015 at the Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Rana Muhammad Hayat Khan. The following agenda was discussed during the meeting:

* The Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Medical University, Islamabad (Amendment) Bill, 2014 (Moved by Maj.(R) Tahir Iqbal).

* Capital Administration and Development Division to explain the actions taken so far against the responsables as per inquiry report regarding construction of Cardiac Centre in PIMS, made by Prime Minister Inspection Commission.

* Explanation by the Cabinet Division and the Auditor General of Pakistan about the progress on third part audit report of PWP-I and II, as per direction by the Standing Committee.

* Briefing by CDA on its on-going and future development projects

* Presentation by CDA on Kachi-Abbadis with special reference to (Sector-I/II) from illegal occupants so far.

CDA, will brief about the received and receivable amount of each residential and commercial plot (year-wise) from 2007-2012.

* Compulsory Blood test for relatives of Thalassemia Patients Bill, 2014 (moved by Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuhu).

* The transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues (Amendment) Bill, 2014(moved by Ms. Kishwer Zehra).

* The Disable Persons Employment and Rehabilitation (Amendment) Bill, 2014 (moved by Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb).

The member (Planning) CDA briefed the Standing Committee regarding projects which are in progress. He stated that at present the ongoing projects include Infrastructure Development Works at Park Enclave, Islamabad, construction of Khayaban-e-Margallah from G.T. Road to Sector D-12, Islamabad. He also briefed about the future development projects which have been planned to be taken up in the future in which included the up-gradation and rehabilitation of Islamabad Highway from Zero Point to Rawat, Islamabad, Interchange at the intersection of Kashmir highway and the 7th Avenue development of Kuri Model Village, construction of underpasses on Faisal Avenue between Sector G-7/G-8 and F-7/F-8, construction of Khayaban-e-Margallah from Constitution Avenue to Murree Expressway and development of Sectors I-12, C-13, C-14 and C-15 including construction of pedestrian bridges on various roads. He stated that PC-I of Rs. 501.692million has been approved for construction of eight pedestrian bridges; out of which four bridges will be constructed on Kashmir Highway, two bridges on Islamabad Highway, one bridge planned to be constructed on I.J.P. Road and one bridge on 9th Avenue near F-9 Park, Islamabad. Similarly, work on one bridge for Islamabad Highway at Gangal is in progress in HMC Taxila and work on remaining bridges will be taken up in the next fiscal year after funds allocation.

The meeting was attended by MNAs: Sardar Muhammad Irfan Dogar, Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti, Ms. Nighat Parveen Mir, Ms. Shahnaz Saleem, Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, Moulvi Agha Muhammad along with mover of bills Maj. (R)Tahir Iqbal, Ms. Kishwer Zehra and Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb.

2) A meeting of the Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat was held on 16th April 2015 at Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Rana Muhammad Hayat Khan. The agenda of the meeting was detailed discussion on the performance of Department of Libraries and Gun Country Club.



Rana Muhammad Hayat Khan, Chairman Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat chairing the committee meeting at Parliament House on 03.04.2015



The Secretary, Gun Club and Director General, Department of Libraries briefed the Committee about the efforts made by them to improve the performance of its departments and problems faced by them in this regard.

The Committee expressed satisfaction on the efforts of Chairman, Gun Country Club for making it operational and initiating steps to further improve the performance of the club. The Committee directed that management of Gun Country Club may organize different events to attract the youth towards the healthy activities.

The Committee also discussed the performance of department of libraries and directed that management may publicize the importance of reading books through Print and Electronic media to develop the tendency of utilizing the book instead of web browsing as the book knowledge is more authentic than the information available on the websites/internet.

The Committee directed the management of Libraries to expand its area of network to other provinces as well so that most of the people could get benefit of it.

The meeting was attended by MNAs: Malik Ibrar Ahmed, Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti, Ms. Nighat Parveen Mir, Ms. Farhana Qamar, Mr. Abdul rehman Khan Kanju, Pir Shafqat Hussain Jilani, Mr. Roshan Din Junejo, Mr. Sajid Nawaz, Molvi Agha Mohammad and Syed Ali Raza Abidi.

Committee on Parliamentary Affairs

A meeting of the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs was held on 3rd April 2015 at the Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Abdul Mannan. The agenda of the meeting was detailed discussion on salaries and allowances of Members of National Assembly including Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

It was informed by the Secretary; Parliamentary Affairs that the amendments would be required in 1974 and 1975 Act for enhancement of the salaries and allowances of Speaker, Deputy Speaker and members. It was recommended by the Committee that the Member's salaries and allowances should be enhanced, equal to upper limit of the Federal Secretaries according to their protocol mentioned in Warrant of Precedence; (Article No. 16) issued 6th July, 1970.

The Committee recommended that the parliamentarians should be allowed to utilize their MCOs upto 31st June, 2015 earlier the Committee members were informed by the Chairman that said MCOs were already issued to the members and National Assembly has been paid Rs.50million to Pakistan International Airline in current financial year. It was unanimously decided that Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs will take up the MCOs matter with Aviation Division and PIA to resolve the matter.

The meeting was attended by MNAs: Dr. Nisar Ahmed Jatt, Mian Tariq Mehmood, Mr. Rasheed Ahmad Khan, Ms. Arifa Khalid Pervez, Ms. Shahida Rehmani, Mr. Syed Essa Nori and Ms. Shahjehan Munir Mangrio along with senior officers from Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.



Mian Abdul Manan, Chairman Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs chairing the committee meeting at Parliament House on 03.04.2015



Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination

A meeting of the Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination was held on 13th April 2015 at the office of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), Karachi under the Chairmanship of Mr. Khalid Hussain Magsi. The agenda of the meeting was to analyze the working performance of the Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL), Karachi and to listen the issues/ problems relating to manufacturing of medicines by Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Association (PPMA).

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) apprised the Committee about the Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL). The Committee expressed satisfaction over the functioning and performance of the laboratory. All the issues regarding Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL) including the budget related issues were discussed in detail. The Committee recommended that sophisticated machinery may be arranged in the Laboratory to improve the quality of medicines.

The Representative of the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Association (PPMA) shared their issues with the Committee and requested that the pending cases with registration board may be decided at the earliest. They are of the view that Electricity and Gas may be provided to pharma industries as provided to Textile industries and the Generators may be allowed to run over the gas also. The Committee also directed that the quality of medicines may be maintained and discouraged the sub-standard standard medicines.

The Committee after thorough discussion with the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Association (PPMA), asked them to prepare a report regarding their problems and submit it to the committee so that the issues can be resolved.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Nisar Ahmad Jatt, Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, Ms Zuhra Wadood Fatemi, Dr. Nighat Shakeel Khan, Chaudhery Muhammad Shabaz Babar, Mir Aijaz Hussain Jakhri, Dr. Mahreen Razaque Bhatto, Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon and Mr. Abdul Qahar Khan Wadan beside Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) and their Officers.

Committee on Communications

A meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Communications was held on 14th April 2015 at Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Mr. Sufyan Yusuf. The agenda of the meeting was detailed discussion on the recommendations given by the Committee during its meeting held on 11th March 2015.

The Director General, Pakistan Post briefed the Committee that 538 cases of misappropriation involving loss of Rs.559million were discovered during the last five years. Some cases were registered in Police, NAB and FIA. He informed that Rs.107millions had been recovered from the officials who were at fault and they were taken to task according to the quantum of their offences.

The Committee directed the Ministry and DG Pakistan Post to control the fraud cases in consultation with NAB/FIA



Sufyan Yousuf, Chairman Standing Committee on Communications chairing the committee meeting at Parliament House on 14.04.2015



and recover the amount of embezzlement. The Committee also directed to fix the time-line to inquire into the fraud cases at the departmental level. The Pakistan Post followed the banking system and blocked the ways of fraud in the department. The Committee also directed to submit a brief about the task force for the discussion and suggestion.

The Director General, Pakistan Post further informed the Committee that 405 Post Offices were opened and 584 were closed throughout the country since the last five years. The Committee also directed to vacate the properties/housing units encroached upon by other departments/unauthorized persons. The DG Pakistan Post further informed that Pakistan Post had appointed 1666 persons on regular basis, 178 were appointed on contract and 1007 were appointed on daily wages in the different pay scales during the period from 2010 to 2014.

The Committee observed that the training was compulsory for all the officers and directed the Pakistan Post Office Department to arrange training for all officers in the future.

The meeting was attended by MNAs: Mr. Sarzameen, Chaudary Khalid Javed Warraich, Mr. Ramesh Lal, Mr. Salim Rehmen, Engineer Hamid-ul-Haq Khalil, Mr. Muhammad Muzammil Qureshi, Ms. Naseema Hafeez Panezai, Engineer Usman Khan Tarakai along with officers of Ministry of Communications, Pakistan Post, FIA and NAB.

Committee on Planning, Development & Reform

A meeting of the Standing Committee on Planning, Development & Reform was held on 15th April 2015 at the Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Mr. Abdul Majeed Khan Khanan Khail. The main agenda of the meeting was detailed discussion on the progress of Neelum Jhelum Hydro Power Project, Muzaffarabad. The Committee highly appreciated the progress on Neelum Jhelum Hydro Power Project and directed the management to take stringent measures in order to complete the Project without the further delay so that energy crises of the country could be reduced.

The Committee recommended that standard operating procedure (SOP) of any mega project may be devised on modern techniques in order to avoid the revision of PC-1 of the mega projects. The Committee also visited the Power House of the Project and witnessed the different stages of the works and directed the management to effectively coordinate with Ministry of Finance for timely releases of funds in order to make it functional before 31st December 2016. The management of the Project briefly apprised the Committee about the efforts made by them to accelerate the pace of work and the problems faced by them in this regard. They sought support of the Committee in resolving their issues.

The meeting was attended by MNAs: Chaudary Jaffar Iqbal, Mr. Muhammad Arif Chaudary, Ms. Shaheen Shafiq, Ms. Shazia Ashfaq Mattu, Mrs. Shamas-un-Nisa, Mr. Qaiser Jamal, Sheikh Salauddin, Mr. Sher Akbar Khan and Mr. Iftikhr-ud-Din.

Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training

A meeting of the Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training was held on 15th April 2015 at Muhammad Ali Jinnah University, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Mr. Gulzar Khan. The agenda of the meeting was the detailed discussion on “The Capital University of Science and Technology Bill, 2015”.

The Committee considered the Bill in depth and had a very useful discussion on the agenda. The Committee unanimously passed the Bill.

Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti, MNA expressed his reservations and inquired that what would be the status of the present students of Muhammad Ali Jinnah University, Islamabad that this university would be replaced with Capital University of Science and Technology, Islamabad. The HEC clarified that the credit hours cleared by the students would be converted to the new university as is done in case when the student transfers from one university to other.

The Committee members also visited different departments of the university. The meeting was attended by the MNAs: Dr. Zulfiqar Al Bhatti, Ms. Amra Khan, Mussart Rafique Mahesar, Muhammad Rehan Hashmi and Nighat Shakeel Khan.

Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication

A meeting of the Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication was held on 16th April 2015 at the Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Capt. (R) Muhammad Safdar. The agenda of the meeting was detailed discussion on “Prevention of Electronic Crimes Bill, 2015”.

The “Prevention of Electronic Crimes Bill, 2015” was presented before the Committee but due to repetitions and redundancy in the draft, it was referred to a Committee of legal and technical experts for its redrafting. The Committee of experts restructured and finalized the bill and presented it before the Committee.

The Committee also discussed the issue of Grey Trafficking in detail and appreciated efforts of the Ministry/ PTA for curtailing illegal flow of 400 million minutes and saving Government Exchequer. The PTA is working on further



prompt decrease of grey trafficking to zero level in next 3-4months. The Committee opined that NAB and FIA may initiate strict action against the Grey Traffickers and recover the amount illegally earned during and before the Court's stay period.

The meeting was attended by MNAs: Major (R) Tahir Iqbal, Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudary, Mehr Ishtiaq Ahmed, Ms. Farhana Qamar, Ms. Mussart Rafique Mahesar, Ms. Zehra Wadood Fatemi, Mian Muhammad Farooq, Syed Ali Raza Abidi.



Capt (R) Muhammad Safdar, Chairman Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication chairing the committee meeting at Parliament House on 16.06.2015

Committee on Defence Production

A meeting of the Standing Committee on Defence Production was held on 17th April 2015 at the Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Khwaja Sohail Mansoor. The agenda of the meeting was detailed discussion on the procurement procedure of Defence equipments from the local and foreign manufacturing companies by Directorate General Defence Purchase (DGDP).

The Committee's creation and its functioning were applauded by the Director General Defence Purchase (DGDP). He informed the Committee about the process of procurement adopted by the Directorate General for Defence requirements.

The Committee was told by the DGDP that the Chief of Army Staff has the authority to approve the purchase upto US\$25million, however, the purchase of major defence equipment and the weapon system having value of more than US\$25million is headed by the Secretary Defence Production along with the other representatives.

The Committee decided that provincial's Chief Secretaries, Inspector Generals of Police (IGPs), Inspector Generals (Prisoners), MD/DGs of the Procurement Regulatory Authorities from the Federal Government and all the provincial governments including Gilgit-Baltistan would be called in next meeting to discuss the possibilities for the procurement of security equipments, Armoured Carriers etc, made by the attached departments of the Ministry of Defence Production i.e. Pakistan Ordnance Factory Wah and Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT) by the provincial Governments.

The meeting was attended by MNAs: Mr. Rajab Ali Khan Baloch, Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, Mr. Muhammad Moeen Watto Chaudary Hamid Hameed, Ms. Amra Khan and Mr. Bhawan Das along with senior officers from the Ministry of Defence Production.

Committee on Railways

A meeting of the Standing Committee on Railways was held on 29th April 2015 at the Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Syed Naveed Qamar. The agenda of the meeting was detailed discussion on the budgetary proposals relating to the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) for the financial year 2015.

The Ministry presented an overview of the budgetary proposals relating to the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) for the financial year 2015. The Committee endorsed the budgetary proposals relating to the PSDP for the financial year 2015-16.

The Ministry further briefed the Committee on the issue of tenders for the procurement of 150 D.E. locomotives and informed that the ministry has adopted the prescribed procedure in accordance with the Public Procurement



Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules. The contract will be awarded in June 2015 in this respect. The Committee appreciated the efforts made by the department for improving the efficiency of Pakistan Railways.

The meeting was attended by MNAs: Syed Muhammad Saqlain Bukhari, Mr. Rasheed Ahmad Khan, Syed Muhammad Ashiq Hussain Shah, Dr. Nisar Ahmad Jatt, Dr. Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal, Malik Ghulam Rabbani Khar, Mr. Ramesh Lal, Engr. Hamid-ul-Haq Khalil, Mr. Amjad Ali Khan, Qari Muhammad Yousaf and Ms. Naseema Hafeez. The meeting was also attended by Khwaja Saad Rafique, Minister for Railways and senior officers of the Ministry of Railways.



Syed Naveed Qamar, Chairman Standing Committee on Railways chairing the committee meeting at Parliament House on 29.04.2015

News

NA Speaker & Deputy Speaker felicitated newly elected office bearers of APNS

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, the Deputy Speaker National Assembly have congratulated Mr. Hameed Haroon, Miss Rameeza Majid Nizami, Mr. Mumtaz A. Tahir and Mr. Sarmad Ali on their election for slots of President, Senior Vice President, Vice President and General Secretary of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), respectively.

In their congratulatory messages to Mr. Hameed Haroon, Mr. Sarmad Ali and other office bearers of APNS, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker said that their election was an evidence of trust and confidence of the members of the General Council of APNS reposed in them.

They expressed hope that the newspapers and publication industry will progress in future and would guide the Government to improve governance and formulating pro-people policies.

NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker extended warm felicitations to the Christians on the Eve of Easter

On 4th April 2015, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the Speaker National Assembly extended warm felicitations to the Christian Members of the Parliament and the Christian community on the auspicious occasion of Easter. He said that the Easter is the occasion to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Peace Be Upon Him), the culmination of the entire year's worship and prayers and forty days of fasting by our Christian brethren followed by celebration and jubilation. He said that this joyful celebration of the Feast of Easter may bring happiness and prosperity to everyone in the Christian community.

The Speaker said that Jesus Christ (Peace Be Upon Him) was ordained by Almighty Allah to preach love, peace, tolerance and brotherhood. He inculcated spiritual values among his followers to work for the Divine pleasure. His eternal message of love for humanity and for members of all communities and fraternities still holds strength to ensure harmony and peace in today's world. He said that in the day of turbulence in the country, we should forge unity to counter the nefarious designs of the enemies.

He reiterated that the rights and privileges enjoyed by all the minorities in Pakistan will be fully safeguarded by the government according to the Constitution of Pakistan and guiding principles of the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-



Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also extended his appreciation to the Christian community for their deep sense of patriotism and dedicated services for the progress and prosperity of the country. Their unmatched contribution in the process of nation building, especially in the field of health and education was a glowing chapter of our national history, he added.

Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker National Assembly has also extended greetings on his fellow Christian colleagues on the auspicious occasion of Easter.

Country's Future rests in the hands of the Youth: NA Speaker

On 14th April 2015 Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, addressed a ceremony of Roots Millennium Schools in Islamabad. He said that future of the country rests in hands of the youth and our young people has all the potential and competence to steer the country out of present challenges. The Speaker said that Pakistan is facing immense challenges of its times which can only be met with the determination, resilience and unity of our nation. He said that this is the right time to make positive changes in the society for the generations to come, for future development and prosperity of the country.

He said that education is essential for the growth and development of any country and only those nations have made progress who accorded top priority to their educational sector. He said that nation has lot of expectations from its youth so they should equip themselves of modern time technology and work hard to coup with challenges confronted to the country and to come up the expectations of the nation.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq shared the introduction of subject/course on Parliamentary Studies in universities and educational institution all over the country with them. He also invited the students and faculty of schools to visit the Parliament and witness the proceedings of the National Assembly. Senator Raheela Magsi and large numbers of Ambassadors of different countries were also present on the occasion.



Group photo of students of Roots Millenium Schools with NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Islamabad on 14.04.2015

That freedom can never be attained by a nation without suffering and sacrifice has been amply borne out by the recent tragic happenings in this subcontinent.

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah



News from Provincial Assemblies

Punjab Assembly

The legislators in the Punjab Assembly on 2nd April 2015 demanded the provincial government to allocate more funds for the development projects in Southern Punjab in the upcoming budget 2015-16.

Taking part in the pre-budget debate, six lawmakers highlighted the problems of their respective constituencies and urged the government to pay heed to them in the next provincial budget.

PPPP lawmaker Khawaja Muhammad Nizam-ul-Mehmood (PP-241 Dera Ghazi Khan) and PML-N lawmakers Malik Ahmad Saeed Khan, (PP-178 Kasur-IV), Mrs. Fozia Ayub Qureshi, Mrs. Tehseen Fawad and Mrs. Azra Sabir Khan elected on women reserved seats, and Mian Muhammad Islam Aslam (PP-287 Rahimyar Khan) informed the House about their priorities in the next budget.

The legislators also spoke about the issues of water and health and demanded of the provincial government to resolve them on priority basis. The lawmakers from South Punjab urged the provincial government to give special attention to the uplift of the Southern Punjab by allocating more funds to the region.

The Punjab Assembly continued witnessing low attendance as 14 (4%) lawmakers were present at the start and 20 (5%) at the end of the fifth sitting of the ongoing 13th session.

The quorum was visibly lacking, however, it was not pointed out by any of the lawmakers. The Leader of the House, the Opposition Leader and the parliamentary leaders of all political parties were absent.

Fifteen out of 30 starred questions were taken up and responded to by the relevant government department. In addition, the lawmakers raised 25 supplementary questions.

The House took up five adjournment motions regarding dilapidated condition of elementary colleges in Lalamusa, poor condition of Salinity Control and Reclamation Project's machinery, non-provision of medicines to patients in various hospitals in Lahore, dilapidated condition of a road in Gujrat and delay in renovation of historical buildings.

The lawmakers raised six points of order that consumed three minutes of the sitting.

(parliamentfiles.com/news/mpas-call-for-uplifting-of-southern-punjab/)

Sindh Assembly

The Sindh Assembly passed two bills and adopted a resolution on 27th April 2015. The House passed the Sindh Service Tribunals (Second Amendment) Bill 2015 and the Postgraduate College of Medical Sciences Sindh Bill 2014. The latter was passed after it was reconsidered to incorporate the governor's recommendations.

The House continued to witness low attendance with 32 (19%) members present at the start of the sitting and 63 (38%) at the time of adjournment. The quorum was visibly lacking at various stages of the sitting. However, it was not pointed out by any of the lawmakers.

The Parliamentary Affairs Minister introduced the Indus University of Health Sciences Bill 2015, while the Thar Development Authority Bill 2015 and the Kohistan Development Authority Bill 2015 (which were introduced earlier) were referred to the relevant standing committees.

The House also adopted a resolution congratulating PPPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari for arranging a public gathering in Lyari, Karachi on Sunday.

Three calling attention notices (CANs) regarding waste disposal in Karachi, misappropriation of funds in the Sports Department and action against doctors of Haider Bux Jatoi Hospital in Daharki, Ghotki were taken up during the sitting. Another CAN regarding the vacancy of District Education Officer in Dadu was not taken up on the will of the mover.

The House took up five out of seven questions addressed to the Women Development and Information Departments. In addition, the lawmakers raised 33 supplementary questions.

In addition, an adjournment motion regarding the Sindh government's decision to reject the federal government's new energy policy was also taken up during the sitting.

The Speaker expressed concern over security threats to the assembly and informed the lawmakers that he had spoken to the IGP Sindh and DG Rangers to beef up security around the assembly premises.

During its earlier session, on 17th April 2015, Provincial Assembly passed the Sindh Security of Vulnerable Establishments Bill 2015 and adopted a resolution against the decision of IRSA to open the irrigation water supply to Chashma Jhelum Link Canal in violation of inter-provincial agreement.

(parliamentfiles.com/news/sindh-assembly-passes-two-bills-adopts-resolution/)



Foreign Parliaments

Indian Parliament

A bill to amend the Regional Rural Banks Act was passed by Indian Parliament on 28th April 2015, with government saying it was necessary to empower such financial institutions which are the "jewel in the crown" of the country's financial system.

The Regional Rural Banks (Amendment) Bill, 2014, which got the assent of the Rajya Sabha by voice vote, seeks to help Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) raise their authorised capital and will enable them to mop up funds from capital market to help strengthen them.

Lok Sabha had earlier passed the Bill in December last.

Moving the bill for passage, Minister of State for Finance Jayant Sinha said 57 RRBs have been playing an important role in financial inclusion of villages, covering every district and having nearly 80,000 employees. He said the need for amendments has been felt for some time to strengthen the RRBs for which capital is needed. "I would call them a 'Jewel in the crown' and not a 'Diamond in the rough' as described by a member... These are a jewel in the crown, although not the entire crown," he said.

Through the amendment in the Act, the government was giving them flexibility and strengthening them, he added. Dismissing apprehensions that the amendments are a way to privatise these banks, Mr Sinha said, "Some private player will come in to infuse capital, but there are enough safeguard in the bill."

He said under the present system, the Centre has a 50 per cent share, the sponsor Bank 35 per cent and state government 15 per cent shareholding in the RRBs. The proposed amendments will provide flexibility in this structure.

"In no case will the holdings of the Centre and Sponsor Bank be allowed to go less than 51 per cent," he said, adding "We have to have an open mind on having reduction in our capital. We have to give them the resources for financial strengthening in the financial landscape."

He said government is attempting to strengthen these banks, which play an important role in financial inclusion and will help fulfil government's attempt of providing financial inclusion to every village in the country.

URL: (<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/parliament-passes-amendment-to-regional-rural-banks-bill-758927>)

Sri Lankan Parliament

The Sri Lankan parliament passed a constitutional amendment bill on 28th April 2015 to restrict the draconian powers of the executive presidency and set up independent commissions to de-politicise judiciary, bureaucracy, police and the election commission.

The amendment also envisages restoration of a two-term limit for the presidency.

The 19th Amendment bill was passed with a brute majority as 215 of the 225 members of parliament voted for it. Only one legislator voted against, one abstained, and seven were absent.

Significantly, many of those who were in the forefront of the campaign against the proposed amendment voted for it after President Sirisena accommodated the amendments moved by the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and the United Peoples Freedom Alliance (UPFA).

The 19th amendment envisages a partial reintroduction of parliamentary democracy, which existed in Sri Lanka till 1978 when the presidential system was established.

The constitutional amendment binds the directly elected executive president to act on the advice of the prime minister and his cabinet. The president will continue to head the executive and the cabinet.

The president's term has been cut from six to five years, and no incumbent can bid for more than two consecutive terms.

The amendment also envisages the establishment of a constitutional tribunal, which in turn will set up independent commissions to oversee appointments and the work of eleven organs or the state.

The amendment was a major election promise of President Sirisena, who was keen on dismantling the system presided over by his predecessor, Mahinda Rajapaksa.

But Sirisena's bid to usher in democracy ran into rough weather because the amendment bill became a battlefield for two bitter rivals — Sirisena and the ruling United National Party (UNP) on the one hand, and the opposition SLFP and UPFA led by Rajapaksa, on the other.

URL: (<http://www.dawn.com/news/1178882/parliament-curbs-lankan-presidents-powers>)



Photo Gallery



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq chairing meeting of the Working Council of Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) at Parliament House on 28.04.2015



Deputy Speaker AJK Assembly Shaheen Kausar Dar meets Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House on 28.04.2015



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq shaking hand with Chinese President Xi Jinping at Parliament House on 21.04.2015. Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani is also present.



Imam-e-Kaaba, Al-Sheikh Dr. Khalid Al-Ghamdi leading the Maghrib prayer at Parliament House on 27.04.2015.



NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq addressing on the occasion of the signing ceremony of the agreement between Bulgaria and Frobels International School in Islamabad on 27.04.2014