



National Assembly of Pakistan

THE GAZETTE



September, 2013

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SEPTEMBER 2013

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 54 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the president had been pleased to summon the National Assembly to meet in then Parliament House, Islamabad on Monday, the 16th September 2013 at 4.00 PM and In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 54 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the president had been pleased to prorogue the National Assembly session on 27th September 2013 on conclusion of its business. The session is, otherwise, called 5th session of 14th Assembly. Some important activities of the 5th session are summarized herewith.

LEGISLATION

In the 5th session of the National Assembly, the following legislative business was laid and discussed by the House.

A. Ordinances Laid

SHAIKH AFTAB AHMED, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs on Monday, 16th September 2013 laid before the National Assembly the Surveying and Mapping Ordinance, 2013 (No. 6 of 2013), as required by clause (2) of Article 89 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

B. Bills Introduced

A total of eight bills were introduced in the Lower House of the Parliament, out of which five were introduced by the Private Members and three by the Government. These bills have been referred to their respective standing committees for further deliberation. A brief overview of these bills is given below:

Private Members' Bills

Five bills were introduced by the Private Members, on Tuesday, the 17th September 2013 in the 5th session of the National Assembly. These are enlisted below:

1. The Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government Act, 2013 (Laid by S. A. Iqbal Quadri). The Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government Act, 2013, seeks for the Federal Capital to have an empowered local government for effective delivery of services and transparent decision making through institutionalized participation of the people at grass root level. It is the need of the time and superior courts of the country are also pressing hard for local body elections in Islamabad.

2. HIV/AIDS (Safety and Control) Act, 2013. (Laid by Dr. Azra Fazal Pechohu) HIV/AIDS is a gigantic challenge for the whole world which is causing a large number of deaths around the globe. It spreads rapidly in developing countries like Pakistan where there is little awareness of this disease and precautionary measures amongst the public at large. Therefore this bill seeks to increase the awareness in the mass about this killer disease and take appropriate measures to control its spread.

3. The National Database and Registration Authority (Amendment) Act, 2013 (Laid by S. A. Iqbal Quadri). The NADRA (Amendment) Act, 2013, seeks to abolish the practice of demanding/producing copy of CNIC and to encourage the exclusive use of original CNIC. It is a common practice that the public and private sector organizations require a copy of CNIC with or without certain other documents as a proof of identity. The copies are ultimately being misused for various criminal and illegal activities.

4. The Political Parties Order (Amendment) Bill, 2013 (Laid by Dr. Azra Fazal Pechohu). The Bill seeks to protect and strengthen women's representation in the political and legislative process. The National and International Commitments of The Government of Pakistan including the Constitution, the National Policy for

the Development and Empowerment of Women (NPDEW) 2002, Convention on Elimination of All kinds of discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Article 23, and International Covenants of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) underscore attainment of non-discriminatory and equal opportunities for women in the public and political spheres.

5. The Publication of the Holy Quran (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) Act, 2013 (Laid by Major (Retd) Tahir Iqbal). This bill aims to ensure error free publication of the Holy Quran on fine quality papers and proper disposal of martyred/damaged Holy pages and copies of the Holy Quran.

Government Bills

Three Bills were introduced by the Government in the 5th session of the National Assembly. SHAIKH AFTAB AHMED, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs laid them in the House. These are enlisted below:

1. The Federal Employees Benevolent Fund and Group Insurance (Amendment) Act, 2013 (Wednesday, 18th September 2013). The bill is aimed to amend Section 13(3) of the Federal Employees Benevolent Fund and Group Insurance Act, 1969, for the removal of the age limit of 70 years for provision of monthly Benevolent Grant to the family members of the employee. The matter was discussed in the 85th meeting of the Board of Trustees held under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Establishment Division on 16-3-12 and the need for amendment was felt.

2. Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils (Thursday, 19th September 2013). The bill is aimed to fulfill the statutory requirement of the establishment of Islamabad Bar Council under the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Act, 1973 (XXXV of 1973). Earlier, Islamabad Capital Territory was given representation in Punjab Bar Council but after the establishment of an independent High Court for the Islamabad Capital Territory, a separate Islamabad Bar Council is mandatory under the aforesaid Act.

3. Federal Court (Repeal) Act, 2013 (Friday, 20th September 2013). The Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan considered the proposal to repeal Federal Court Act, 1937, in its meeting dated 4th June, 2011. It was observed that pursuant to framing of Supreme Court Rules, 1980, the Federal Court Act, 1937 has lost its effectiveness and has become redundant; therefore, there is no need to retain the same. The Commission agreed with the Proposal and recommended to repeal the Federal Court Act, 1937 (Act No.XXV of 1937).

C. Resolutions

In the 5th session, the National Assembly passed seven resolutions out of which five resolutions were moved by Private Members and 2 resolutions were moved by the Government.

Resolutions by Private Members

The five resolutions moved by the Private Members and passed by the National Assembly were:

1. Resolution to pull the Pakistan Steel Mills out of crises (September 17, 2013). The House was of the opinion that the government should take immediate steps to pull the Pakistan Steel Mills out of crises.

2. Resolution for Government to take steps to eliminate terrorism (September 17, 2013). National Assembly resolved that government should take steps to eliminate terrorism.

3. Resolution for the Government to take steps for Supply of Gas to Buner (September 17, 2013). The House recommended that the Government should take steps to make arrangement for supply of Sui gas to District Buner.

4. Resolution for the Government to take steps to abolish system of interest (September 17, 2013). The house urged the government to take immediate steps to abolish the system of interest in the country.

5. Resolution to express the deepest shock over the earthquake in Balochistan and Sindh (September 25, 2013). The House expressed its deepest shock over the calamitous earthquake that has hit parts of Balochistan and Sindh on the 24th of September 2013, grief over the immeasurable loss of human life and property caused by this 7.8 magnitude earthquake; and called upon the Government to expedite its rescue and relief efforts in the affected regions.

Resolutions by Government

The two resolutions moved by the Government and passed by the National Assembly were:

1. Resolution that the National Assembly Strongly Condemns the Terrorist Attacks on a Church in Peshawar (September 23, 2013). The House in the strongest possible terms condemned the heinous and brutal terrorist attack on a Church in Peshawar on Sunday, the 22nd September 2013 in which more than 81 precious lives, including children and women, had been lost and over 137 persons received injuries. The House also expressed solidarity with the Christian Community and demanded the Federal and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governments to take measures to protect the rights of non-Muslims and provide the best possible medical facilities to those injured. The House demanded to bring the perpetrators to justice.

2. Resolution that the National Assembly strongly condemns the attack on Army Officers (September 17, 2013). The House strongly condemned the attack on Major Gen. Sanaullah Niazi, Lt. Col. Tauseef and La. Naik Irfan Sattar, soldiers Yasir and Ghaffar of Bloch Regiment of Pakistan Army. The House expressed deep sympathies for the grieved families, paid tribute to the bravery and courage of Pakistan armed forces and called upon the government to fully support the armed forces in the fight against terrorism.

QUESTIONS

Each day of the session (except Private

Members Day), comprises of a Question hour which is the physical oversight tool used by the Parliamentarians to exercise check on the Government.

In the 5th session, 1274 questions were received. Out of these, 676 questions were admitted while 116 were disallowed. Among the questions admitted (starred and unstarred), 357 were replied, 204 questions lapsed while 114 were deferred.

CALLS ON

In the month of September, the speaker of National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has been called on by several dignitaries. Short stories of the calls on are as follows:

1. Vice Chancellor of Turk University

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has stressed the need for collaboration between Turkish and Pakistani educational sectors for taking benefit of the robust Turk educational system. He also appreciated contributions of Pak-Turk School System in promotion of education in Pakistan. He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of Vice Chancellors of various Turk Universities led by Professor Dr. Serif Ali Tekalan, Vice Chancellor Fatih University, Istanbul which called on him at Parliament House on 25th September, 2013.

2. High Commissioner of Malaysia Dr. Hasrul Sani bin Mujtabar

Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq underlined the need for strengthening of



Dr. Hasrul Sani bin Mujtabar, High Commissioner of Malaysia with Speaker National Assembly, in Parliament House

parliamentary links between the Pakistan and Malaysia. He said that enhanced interaction between parliamentarians of both the brotherly countries would cement the existing warm relations. The Speaker was talking to High Commissioner of Malaysia Dr. Hasrul Sani bin Mujtabar, who called on him in Parliament House on September 04, 2013.

3. High Commissioner of Mauritius Mr. Mohammad Rashad Daureeawo

High Commissioner of Mauritius Mr. Mohammad Rashad Daureeawo called on Speaker National Assembly in Parliament House on September 04, 2013. Talking to the High Commissioner, the Speaker said that Pakistan attaches immense importance to its ties with Mauritius and wants to further enhance them through parliamentary



High Commissioner of Mauritius Mr. Mohammad Rashad Daureeawo calls on Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

interaction and collaboration in diverse fields. The Speaker said that Pak-Mauritius Parliamentary group to be formed shortly in National Assembly will give an upward momentum to the existing parliamentary relations. He also called for enhancing trade and investment between private sectors of both the countries. He said that Pakistan has immense tourism potential but has not been fully exploited. He suggested for joint collaboration between tourism sectors of both the countries.

4. Member of the Royal family of Qatar, al-Thani

Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq with Prince Sheikh Faisal bin Nasir bin Hamad al-Thani, Member of Royal Family Qatar, in Parliament House on 5.09.2013



asked the foreign investors to take benefit of massive unexploited economic potential in Pakistan. He said that Pakistan is committed to socio-economic development for which necessary measures have been taken. He expressed these views talking to Prince Sheikh Faisal bin Nasir bin Hamad al-Thani, Member of the Royal family of Qatar, who called on Speaker in Parliament House on September 05, 2013.

5. Ambassador of United Arab Emirate (UAE), H.E Essa Abdullah Al Basha Al Noaimi

Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that Pakistan attaches high value to its exceptional relations with UAE and wishes to further take them to new heights. He said that Pakistan is thankful to the Government of UAE for its support in time of need. He said this while talking to H.E Essa Abdullah Al Basha Al Noaimi, Ambassador of United



H.E Essa Abdulla Al-Basha Al-Noaimi, Ambassador of UAE called on Speaker National Assembly in Parliament House on 17.09.2013

Arab Emirate (UAE) in Parliament House on 17th September 2013.

6. President-Elect Mr. Mamnoon Hussain



President of Pakistan, Mamnoon Hussain

Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq called on President-elect Mr. Mamnoon Hussain in Karachi on 1st September 2013.

Various issues of national importance and concerning parliament came under discussion. The

President-elect said that it was heartening to see that present parliament consists of progressive forces and had unanimity of views on major national issues. He said that all the political parties should work together for betterment of the masses and safeguard the nascent democracy in the country. He praised the Speaker for conducting the proceeding of the House effectively. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq thanked the President-elect for his remarks. He said that peaceful transition of power from one elected Government to another was a landmark achievement of the democratic forces in the country.

OTHER EVENTS

NA Deputy Speaker to Leads Pak Parliamentary Delegation to China

A seven member Pakistan Parliamentary delegation headed by Deputy Speaker, National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi visited China from 20th September to 29th September 2013. The members of the delegation participated in trilateral dialogue among Pakistan, Afghanistan and China besides meetings with their Chinese counterpart. A briefing session presided over by the Deputy Speaker was held in Parliament House, on 18th September, to brief the members of the delegation about trilateral dialogues and relations between Pakistan and China. Ambassador of China Mr. Sun



Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Murtaza Javed Abbasi addresses China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum held in Kunming, China.

Weidong also attended the briefing besides, the members of the delegation.

In his address at the inaugural session of the China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum held in Kunming, China, Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Murtaza Javed Abassi emphasized the active role of parliaments for building bridges of friendship and conflict resolution in the south Asian region. He said that amicable and peaceful resolution of conflicts and enhancing cooperation between neighbors would usher in peace and development in the region and the world. In his key note address, the Deputy Speaker said that developing cooperative relations in the region and avoiding conflicts was imperative for peace. He said that Parliaments of the region could play active role in this regard. He said that Pakistan has offered tremendous sacrifices for the regional peace and is ready to take all to promote peace and development in the region. He said that Government of Pakistan was committed to peace with all neighbors. He was confident that with the active support of China, peace will come to the region. He expressed gratitude to the Government of China for hosting the

meeting.

First Stakeholder's Consultation Meeting on Millennium Development Goals

The 1st Stakeholder's Consultation on MDGS was held in the precincts of the Parliament House on 12th September 2013. The fraternity of Development sector including the Members National Assembly, line Federal Ministries, attached Government Departments, Donors and Civil Society Organisations met at National Assembly to initiate an open, inclusive and transparent consultation process at Federal & Provincial levels with all the key stake holders with respect to current status of MDGs 2015 and Post MDGs 2015 scenario.

The meeting was convened by Marriyum Aurangzeb (MNA) and was also attended by other MNAs including Ms. Zahra Wadood Fatemi, Rida Khan, Tahira Aurangzeb and Romina Khurshid Alam to primarily focus on sustainable mechanisms for adequate follow ups with regards to MDG.

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