



PAKISTAN INSTITUTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES
Dedicated To Parliamentary Excellence

PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT QUESTIONS

Participants' Book



March, 2013



Module 4



PAKISTAN INSTITUTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES
DEDICATED TO PARLIAMENTARY EXCELLENCE

PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT QUESTIONS

(Senate and National Assembly)



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My guiding principle will be justice and complete impartiality, and I am sure that with your support and co-operation, I can look forward to Pakistan becoming one of the greatest Nations of the world.

Presidential Address to the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan

Karachi
August 11, 1947

PIPS TRAINING OF TRAINER SERIES

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'
Martin Luther King, Jr.

The key to wisdom is this - constant and frequent questioning, for
by doubting we are led to question and by questioning we arrive at the truth.
Peter Abelard

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T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

<i>Foreword</i>	<i>i</i>
<i>Acknowledgement</i>	<i>iii</i>
<i>About the Author</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>Goal and Objectives</i>	<i>vi</i>
<i>Key to Icons</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Objectives</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Format for the Introduction of Participants</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Session 1: Question Hour as an Oversight Tool</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Session Objectives</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Historical Evolution of the Question Hour in the Sub-Continent</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>The Rules Provisions</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Comparison of Question Hour with India</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Question Time in Australia and Canada</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Session 2: Questions in Parliament of Pakistan</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Session Objectives</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Types of Parliamentary Questions</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Supplementary Questions</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>The Question's Process from Submission to the Floor of the House</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>The Use of the Question Period</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>The Advantages of Questions</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>The Limitations of Questions</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Video Clip of British Prime Minister's Question Time</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Session 3: Should Question Hour be Changed? and How</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Session Objectives</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Differences in the UK Practices in Question Hour</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>The Context of Question Hour</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Small Group Discussion</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Session 4: Qualities of Good Oral Questions and How to Build on Them</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Session Objectives</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>The Art of the Supplementary Question</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Thoughts on Supplementary Questions</i>	<i>28</i>

<i>Small Group Discussion</i>	30
<i>Session 5: How can we build on Question Time to Increase Accountability in Parliament?</i>	
..... 31	
<i>Session Objectives</i>	31
<i>Questions and Accountability</i>	32
<i>Developing Additional Mechanisms of Accountability</i>	32
<i>Small Group Brainstorming</i>	34
<i>Session 6: Recommendations for Improved Question Hour</i>	35
<i>Session Objective</i>	35
<i>Interactive Discussion</i>	36
<i>Appendices</i>	38
<i>Appendix I: Senate - Orders of the Day</i>	39
<i>Appendix II: National Assembly - Orders of the Day</i>	41
<i>Appendix III: Senate - Questions for Oral Answers & their Replies</i>	43
<i>Appendix IV: National Assembly - Starred Questions & their Replies</i>	47
<i>Appendix V: National Assembly - Unstarred Questions & their Replies</i>	56
<i>Editor's Profile</i>	59
<i>Sources of Data</i>	60



PAKISTAN INSTITUTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES

FOREWORD

The Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services, PIPS, is the country's premier research and capacity building facility for national and provincial Legislators as well as parliamentary functionaries. The Institute aims to provide an institutionalized system of orientation and capacity building of parliamentarians, to equip them with necessary skills to perform their arduous tasks of legislation, representation and oversight.

The parliamentary oversight is one of the cornerstones of democracy. Oversight is a means for holding the executive accountable for its actions and for ensuring that the Government implements policies in accordance with the laws and budget passed by the Parliament. The robust monitoring of the executive by the Parliament is an indicator of good governance. It is through oversight that the Parliament can ensure a balance of power and assert its role as the custodian of people's interests.

Parliaments have a range of tools at their disposal for conducting oversight. Questions are the most commonly used oversight tool, which are intended to clarify or discuss government policies and may even lead to debates. In order to properly monitor the executive, it is essential for Members of Parliament to be properly informed of the policies of the executive and its ministries. Government responses to parliamentary questions may lead to the disclosure of valuable information. Questions can either be asked in oral or written form, although oral question and answer sessions may provide a lively atmosphere and opportunity for response and follow-up by either side. Consequently, the Questions Hour is an integral part of parliamentary proceedings the world over, which is closely followed by the media and the general public.

In this context, the Institute has designed this orientation manual for parliamentarians to develop insights about appropriate utilization of Questions. We are pleased to share the Participants' Book on Question Hour with the kind readers and all stakeholders. The book is aimed at equipping Members and parliamentary functionaries of the National Parliament and the provincial assemblies, with the concept of question time and to develop essential skills required to comprehend the various steps involved in processing a Question asked by a Parliamentarian.

We extend our special thanks to our long-time partner the Strengthening Democracy through Parliamentary Development (SDPD) Project of the UNDP which has offered to provide support for publishing this second edition of PIPS Participant's Book on Questions.



Khan Ahmad Goraya
Executive Director

Islamabad
Friday, March 29, 2013

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T

Parliamentary oversight is one of the cornerstones of democracy. It is a means for holding the executive accountable for its policies, actions and to ensure that it implements policies and decisions in accordance with laws and the budget passed by the parliament. It is an indicator of good governance. Questions are one of the most foremost oversight tools within the Parliament that is actively followed by public in general and the media in particular.

A parliamentary question is, by definition, a request for information. Regular questioning can be used by parliament to hold the government to account.

The Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services, has taken it as a priority area for its capacity building agenda for the National Parliament and the provincial assemblies. Therefore, initial version of this Participant Book/Manual was developed in 2010 by Pakistan Legislative Strengthening Project – USAID from the contents taken from the Power Point Presentations developed by Mr. Khan Ahmad Goraya, Executive Director, Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services, and Mr. Tony Worthington, former Member, House of Commons, UK, who have vast knowledge and experience on the subject. Eleanor Valentine, Project Director, USAID–PLSP also reviewed the first edition, which was pre-tested by conducting one day orientations for MPs. This latest edition of Questions 2013 was prepared by Institute's Research and Curriculum wing, which has incorporated the latest Rules of Procedure of the Senate and National Assembly of Pakistan related to Questions.

Mr. Zane Asher Green, Instructional Design Specialist edited the 1st version in 2010 whereas this 2013 edition of the book, has been conceived and edited by Mr. Muhammad Faisal Israr, Senior Research Officer (Strategic Studies/IR), Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services.

We are grateful to Mr. Muhammad Anwar, Joint Secretary, Senate of Pakistan for his expert contribution on the subject and last but not the least we are gratified to the Strengthening Democracy through Parliamentary Development (SDPD) Project United Nations Development Program, UNDP, a close partner of the Institute, for supporting Institute in publication of this booklet. We welcome any feedback and suggestions by the participants and readers of the module at: research@pips.org.pk

Research and Curriculum Wing
Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services

A B O U T T H E A U T H O R

Mr. Khan Ahmad Goraya is the founding Executive Director of the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services, He has served as Secretary General, National Assembly of Pakistan for around a decade. Apart from official responsibilities in Pakistan, he earned the positions of Vice President of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP), Regional Secretary of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Secretary General, SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians Association. He also held position of Vice-Chancellor of a Commonwealth affiliated University of Pakistan from June 2004 till January 2009.

USAID and UNDP actively sought Mr. Goraya's backing from 2003 onwards to launch parliamentary support projects in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan to strengthen the Parliament of Pakistan. He has remained the Chief Technical Advisor of the USAID Pakistan Legislative Strengthening as well as National Consultant, the Government of Pakistan – UNDP Project for Supporting Democratic Electoral Process in Pakistan.

The author's overall experience is spread over four decades and he has a sound academic background with a Law degree and Master degrees in Political Science as well as Defence & Strategic Studies. He has also attended prestigious training courses at Governmental Affairs Institute Washington DC, USA, Training and Research Center Chicago USA, Centre for Development and Population Studies, Washington DC, USA, Pakistan Administrative Staff College Lahore and National Defence University, Islamabad.

Mr. Khan Ahmad Goraya is a highly sought after international trainer/facilitator in the areas of Committee System, Parliamentary Privileges, Parliamentary Oversight and Questions besides being the pioneer in setting up various training curriculum of the Institute. In October 2011, he was invited as a key note Speaker at the International Conference on Effective Capacity Building Programs for Parliamentarians during the 125th IPU-ASGP Assembly at Bern, Switzerland.

G O A L

Participants will understand Question Hour and enable them to formulate pertinent questions to perform their oversight function.

O B J E C T I V E S










By the end of the workshop, the participants will be able to:

1. Use the Question Hour more effectively to obtain and use information from the Government.
2. Identify recommendations to improve Question Hour as a legislative tool.

D U R A T I O N

One Day

K E Y T O I C O N S

		
Group-based task	Pair-based task	Individual think task
		
Quiz	Facilitator-led discussion/activity	Self-study
		
Lecturette	Reference task	Video presentation

INTRODUCTION

OBJECTIVES

In this session, participants will:

- Introduce themselves
- Describe what they think is the number one problem with Question Hour in their House



FORMAT FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS

Please introduce yourself by stating your:

Name:
(Senate/ National Assembly) Party Affiliation:
District:
Length of Service in the Parliament (National and Provincial if applicable):

Please respond very briefly to the following two questions:

1. Is the Question Period Important in Parliamentary life and Why?

2. What is the Number One Problem with Question Period?

Session 1

Questions as an Oversight Tool

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe the historical evolution of the question hour in the sub-continent
- Compare the practice of question hour in Pakistan with the one in India
- Discuss the practice of question hour in Australia and Canada



HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF THE QUESTION HOUR IN THE SUB-CONTINENT

INTRODUCTION

- The Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) comprises the President, and the two Houses, the National Assembly and the Senate respectively.
- The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is a federation with a parliamentary form of government.
- With inherent powers to frame and amend the Constitution, the Parliament has an edge over other organs of the State, i.e., the Executive and the Judiciary.

THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Article 67 of the Constitution provides as follows:

- (1) Subject to the Constitution, a House may make rules for regulating its procedure and the conduct of its business, and shall have power to act notwithstanding any vacancy in the membership thereof, and any proceedings in the House shall not be invalid on the ground that some persons who were not entitled to do so sat, voted or otherwise took part in the proceedings.
- (2) Until rules are made under clause (1), the procedure and conduct of business in a House shall be regulated by the rules of procedure made by the President.

PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT

The Preamble of the Constitution states:

“Wherein the state shall exercise its powers and authority through the chosen representatives of the people.”

The Constitution under Article 91 (6) provides:

“The Cabinet together with the Ministers of the State shall be collectively responsible to the Senate and the National Assembly.”

QUESTIONS– SIGNIFICANCE

Questions are the most important oversight tool at the disposal of Parliamentarians, which enables them in:

- Bringing to light abuses;
- Ventilating grievances;
- Exposing and thereby preventing the government from exercising arbitrary power; and
- Pressing the government to take remedial steps.

At the same time this portion of the parliamentary business is a subject of lively interest among the media and general public.

HISTORICAL EVOLUTION

ORIGIN

Promulgation of Indian Councils Act 1892

Members were vested with the right to elicit information by means of Questions. The scope for asking questions widened.

- The Rules framed for the conduct of business in the Legislative Council provided for a six days notice for asking a question;
- Questions were:
 - Asked in the order in which they stood in the Notice Paper;
 - First item of the business; and
 - Asked by the member concerned or on his behalf answer was given by the member in-charge of the Department concerned or any other member designated by the Speaker.

EVOLUTION - 1909

Under the Indian Councils Act 1909, the minimum period of notice was extended from six to ten clear days and for the first time, a provision was made for asking supplementary questions.

The rule regarding the form of question was also made more comprehensive. It was laid down that not admissible were:

- Questions of excessive length; or
- Questions containing arguments, inferences, ironical expressions or defamatory statements; or
- Questions referring to the conduct or character of persons except in their official or public capacity; or
- Questions asking for expression of an opinion or the solution of a hypothetical proposition.

The rule regarding disallowing of questions by the Speaker was simplified; and was amplified to vest in the Speaker the power to disallow any question, or any part thereof (if in his opinion, the question should be asked in the Legislative Council of a Local Government).

MONTAGUE-CHELMSFORD REFORMS OF 1919

- Under the new rules, the first hour of every meeting was earmarked for questions.
- No question was placed on the list of questions for answer until five clear days notice of the admission of a question by the Speaker was given to the Government by the member concerned, except in the case of Short Notice Questions.
- Not more than five questions admitted in the name of the same member were called for answer on any one day.
- The questions were called in the order in which they stood on the list.

INTRODUCTION OF STARRED QUESTIONS

- September 1921 provision introduced the practice of distinguished questions to which a member desired an oral answer by him with an asterisk (*).
- Questions not marked with an asterisk were printed on a separate paper and the answers to them were circulated subsequently and printed in the Official Report in a section separate from the Starred Questions.

In 1937, certain radical amendments were made in the Rules, including:

- A member had to specify the official designation of the Government Member to whom the question was addressed;
- If addressed to a non-official member, then the name of such member had to be specified; and
- If wrongly addressed, the receiving Department had to inform the LAD as to which Government Member was responsible for answering that question.

ADVANCE ANSWERS

- The copies of answers to questions were supplied in advance.
- The first such suggestion was made in the Central Legislative Assembly on 1st March 1921, but it was not accepted.
- On 13th September 1935, a Select Committee was appointed for amending the Standing Order.
- On 6th March 1936, this committee reported to the House that it did not favour the procedure for supplying answers to questions in advance because:

“It would, inter alia, largely detract from the importance and interest of Question Hour and would tend to make the proceedings unreal”.
- The matter was again raised on 7th February 1946, when a member suggested that answers to questions might be placed on the Table an hour or so before the commencement of a sitting not only saving time, but would also tend to make the supplementaries to the point.
- Speaker Mavalankar in his note, for consideration of the Leader of the House, observed:

“I feel that the atmosphere of viva voce proceedings of the House will be considerably lost, and it is possible that a large part of the House, who do not care to read the answers, may lose all interest in the supplementaries.”
- The Leader of the House agreed with the Speaker that printed answers would “take away considerably the interest and liveliness of the proceedings.”



THE RULES PROVISIONS

The Rules of Procedure presently operative in the Senate and National Assembly of Pakistan are based on the historical developments discussed in the earlier presentation and have the following salient features:

- First hour of every sitting except on Tuesday in the National Assembly and similarly all sittings except on a day designated as private Members' day in the Senate is available for asking and answering questions.
- Not less than fifteen days and thirteen days notice is to be given in the case of National Assembly and Senate respectively.
- In the Senate, not more than three starred questions including short notice questions and five un-starred questions from the same Member shall be placed on the list of questions for any one day. At the National Assembly, not more than two starred questions including short notice questions and two un-starred questions from the same Member shall be placed on the list of questions for any one day.
- Questions are put on the list of questions in the order in which their notices are received.
- Rule 50 of the Senate and Rule 78 of the National Assembly contains a comprehensive list of conditions for determining admissibility of questions.
- In both the Houses, admissibility of the question is to be decided by the Chairman/Speaker within five days from the date of the receipt of the notice.
- Ordinarily three supplementary questions are allowed in the Senate and two in the National Assembly.
- Short notice questions relating to a matter of public importance can be asked in both the Senate and the National Assembly with the consent of the Minister concerned.
- Questions relating to the Secretariat may be asked through a private communication to the Speaker/ Chairman and not otherwise (*Senate*: or in the House).
- The answers to questions cannot be released for publication until the same have been given on the floor of the House or laid on the table in the National Assembly

and Senate. In case of Senate answers to the questions which the Minister proposes to give shall be placed on Member's desk an hour before the commencement of question hour.

- The Rules also prohibit discussion on question or answer except as provided by Rule 60 of Senate and Rule 87 of National Assembly.



COMPARISON OF QUESTION HOUR WITH INDIA

Based on the same heritage, a comparison of the Pakistani and Indian Parliamentary Practices present the following picture:

- Both the Parliaments adhere to the practice of devoting first hour of every sitting for asking and answering of questions.
- Notice of a question
Lok Sabha, India: Not less than 10 Days and not more than 21 clear days'
Senate of Pakistan: 13 Days
National Assembly of Pakistan: 15 Days unless the Speaker with the consent of the Minister concerned allows a question to be asked at a shorter notice.
- The maximum number of oral questions on the list on any 1 day
Lok Sabha: 20
Pakistan: No such limit is prescribed
- Limit on questions of a member for oral answer on any one day
Lok Sabha: It has been reduced from 3 to 1
Senate and National Assembly of Pakistan: 3 in Senate and 2 in National Assembly
- Limit for inclusion in the list of un-starred questions
Lok Sabha: A limit of 230
Senate and National Assembly of Pakistan: There is no such limit.
- Limit from the same member for placing on the list of un-starred questions for any one day
Senate and National Assembly of Pakistan: A limit of 5 un-starred questions in

the Senate, whereas 2 in the National Assembly.

- A starred question can be placed on the list of un-starred questions on the discretion of the Speaker if in his/her opinion a written reply would be more appropriate

This is true for India as well as for Pakistan

- Role of Government Assurance Committee in the matter of questions

India: There is a significant role of Government Assurance Committee in the matter of questions:

“Notices of questions are also given by Members in pursuance of assurances given in reply to questions answered earlier in the Lok Sabha. [...] The Committee on Government Assurance has laid down a period of three months for the fulfilment of assurances”.

Pakistan: The Pakistan Rules of Procedure also provide for the Government Assurance Committees, which have been duly constituted in both the Senate and the National Assembly, but these do not play a significant role in the matter of questions.

In this regard, the Federal Government Rules of Business also assign the following responsibility to the Parliamentary Affairs Division:

“Follow up of the assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Federal Government on the floor of the House with a view to their implementation by the Division concerned.”

- Selection of Questions to be tabled

India: A distinct feature of the Indian Parliament is that selection of questions to be tabled is made through balloting.

Pakistan: Rules of both Senate and National Assembly provide that questions be put on the list of questions in the order in which their notices were received.

- Telecasting of Question Hour

India: Telecasting of the pre-recorded proceedings of Question Hour commenced w.e.f. 2nd December 1991 and broadcasting of the same commenced w.e.f. 21st July 1992 in India. Live telecast of the Question Hour commenced on 25th August 1994.

Pakistan: The Parliament of Pakistan is still at the stage of selective telecasting of the pre-recorded proceedings of Question Hour in the Senate and National Assembly.



QUESTION TIME IN AUSTRALIA AND CANADA

AUSTRALIA

In Australia, the accountability of the Government is demonstrated most clearly and publicly at Question Time:

- 45 minutes on most sitting days;
- Questions without notice are put to Ministers;
- No other time in a normal sitting day in the House is so well attended;
- Is usually an occasion of special interest not only to Members, but to the news media; and
- The intensity of partisan politics can be clearly manifested.

The original standing orders adopted in 1901 provided that:

- Questions could be put to Ministers of the Crown relating to public affairs;
- In asking questions, 'no argument or opinion shall be offered, nor any facts stated, except so far as may be necessary to explain such Question';
- 'In answering any such Question a Member shall not debate the matter to which the same refers'.

AUSTRALIAN QUESTION TIME

Question Time Duration

- Question Time is a period during which only questions without notice may be asked and answered.
- It is entirely within the discretion of the Prime Minister or the Senior Minister present as to whether Question Time will take place and, if so, for how long.
- The Speaker is then obliged to call on the next item of business.

No Obligation to Answer

- Ministers cannot be required to answer questions – outright refusal is rare.
- If a Minister does not wish to reply to a question on the Notice Paper he may simply

ignore it. The question then eventually lapses on prorogation of the Parliament or dissolution of the House.

Allocation of the Call

- Speaker first calls on opposition Member, and the call is then alternated from right to left of the Chair.
- On the opposition side, priority is given to the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition.
- Speaker records the number of calls given to each Member, and (with exception of the 2 opposition leaders) allocates the call as evenly as possible.

CANADA

In Canada, the Question Period undoubtedly constitutes the Opposition's favourite means of getting at the Government.

- It lasts 45 minutes every day;
- Questions must bear sufficient urgency and importance to require an immediate response;
- Speaker may, at his discretion, allow or disallow a question.
- Questions must be:
 - Brief; and
 - Directed to a Minister concerning a matter within his current responsibilities and within the Government's jurisdiction.
- Questions must not:
 - Express an opinion or be argumentative;
 - Request a legal or other opinion;
 - Have been answered already;
 - Deal with a matter before the courts; and
 - Anticipate the Orders of the Day.

The aim of most oral questions is to attack the Government. HOWEVER:

- A question cannot be used as a springboard for debate; and
- The Speaker allows Members to ask supplementary questions in order to pursue the issue or obtain clarification.

Allocation of the Call

Speaker's discretion is limited by the following:

- First question of the day is asked by the Leader of Official Opposition or his representative;
- Followed by two supplementaries.
- After that, Speaker recognizes another Member of the Official Opposition (question + 2 supp.).
- Then, the leader of second-largest opposition party is recognized (question + 2 supp.).

The Adjournment Debate

Debate on the motion to adjourn is called the “Late Show”; as for years it has taken place between 11:00 and 11:30 p.m.

- In Canada, a member who is not satisfied with the answer he has received during Question Period or whose question was not put orally is authorized by the Rules, to raise the matter during the adjournment debate.
- MPs who have requested, but have not received an answer to a written question within 45 days may also raise their question during this period.
- This provision allows for a 30-minute period at the end of the day's sitting of five mini-debates of six minutes duration each.

Session 2

Questions

in the Parliament of Pakistan

- OBJECTIVES By the end of this session, participants will be able to:
- Identify the types of parliamentary questions
 - Describe the question's process from submission to reply
 - Appreciate the importance of using question time
 - Identify the advantages and disadvantages of questions
 - Describe the question period in the House of Commons, UK, after watching the video clip of British Prime Minister's Question Time



TYPES OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Questions are of four types:

1. Starred
2. Unstarred
3. Short Notice Questions
4. Questions to Private Members

STARRED QUESTIONS

These are those questions to which a member desires an oral answer in the House. They are distinguished by an asterisk mark (*). Supplementary questions can be asked after the star questions have been answered.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

These do not require an oral answer in the House and cannot be followed by any supplementary questions. The Minister to whom an unstarred question is addressed is required to lay a written answer on the Table after the Question Hour.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

These relate to matters of urgent public importance and require a shorter period of notice than the one prescribed for asking ordinary questions. Like starred questions, they are answered orally followed by supplementary questions.

QUESTION TO A PRIVATE MEMBER (ONLY IN THE SENATE – RULE 49)

It is addressed to the Member himself / herself. The question may be related to any Bill, Resolution or any matter associated with the Business of the House for which that Member is responsible. The same procedure is followed as in the case of Questions addressed to a Minister with such variations, as the Speaker / Chairman may consider necessary or convenient.



SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

When a question has been answered, any member may ask such supplementary questions as may be necessary for the elucidation of the answer, but the Chairman/Speaker shall disallow any supplementary questions, which in his opinion, either infringe any provision of these rules and admissibility of questions or otherwise abuse the right of asking questions.

Ordinarily not more than three supplementary questions shall be asked in respect of any question.

As mentioned above, besides conforming to the rules regarding admission of questions, the supplementary questions should follow the under-mentioned general guidelines:

1. Supplementary questions can be asked only when a Member has been called by the Chair and it is the Speaker's discretion to call any Member;
2. Supplementary questions should arise out of the main questions;
3. Supplementary questions should be specific and relevant;
4. Members should not read out prepared supplementaries;
5. Members should not ask lengthy supplementaries;
6. Supplementary questions should not seek opinion of Ministers on a matter; and
7. Supplementary questions should seek information rather than give information.



THE QUESTION'S PROCESS FROM SUBMISSION TO THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE

STEPS:

1. A SEPARATE NOTICE OF A QUESTION IS GIVEN BY THE SENATOR/MNA TO THE SECRETARY OF THE RESPECTIVE HOUSE
The Member shall specify the official designation of the Minister to whom it is addressed.
Not less than 15 in case of National Assembly and 13 clear days notice in case of Senate is to be given unless the Speaker/Chairman with the consent of the Minister concerned, allows a question to be asked at a shorter notice.
The member shall distinguish the Starred Question with an asterisk (*) to require an oral response from the minister.
The Question is received by the Secretariat and is recorded with the date and Time
(If presented in Urdu, the question is sent for translation into English)
2. THE SECTION IN-CHARGE PREPARES A FILE FOR THE QUESTION
Examines admissibility of the questions according to the criteria in the Rules of Procedures (NA Rule 78 and Senate Rule 50). The office may suggest necessary editing for clarity.
3. THE FILE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ADMISSIBILITY IS SUBMITTED TO THE JOINT SECRETARY/ ADDITIONAL SECRETARY
They review the questions and recommendations, and may add their comments if any.
4. THE FILE IS THEN SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY FOR SEEKING FINAL APPROVAL OF THE CHAIRMAN/SPEAKER FOR ADMITTING OR DISALLOWING A QUESTION
Within five days of the receipt of notices, the Chairman/Speaker shall decide on the admissibility of a question and shall disallow any question or a part thereof, which, in his opinion, is in contravention of the rules, or he may, in his discretion,

amend it in form.

5. THE ADMITTED QUESTION IS ADDRESSED TO THE CONCERNED MINISTRY FOR FURNISHING REPLY WITHIN 8 WORKING DAYS FOR THE SENATE AND 10 DAYS FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
6. IF THE QUESTION IS DISALLOWED, THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBER IS INFORMED WITH THE REASONS FOR INADMISSIBILITY
7. A LIST OF ALL ADMITTED QUESTIONS FOR THAT SESSION IS ALSO CIRCULATED TO THE MEMBERS BY THE RESPECTIVE SECRETARIATS
8. THE RECEIVING MINISTRY SEEKS TO FURNISH THE REPLY NOT LATER THAN FORTY EIGHT HOURS BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF THE QUESTION HOUR

If the Ministry feels that the question does not pertain to them, they may pass on the question to the relevant ministry under intimation to the Senate and National Assembly Secretariat as the case may be.

In case the other Ministry also decides that the question is not within their jurisdiction, then the intervention of the Cabinet Division is sought to determine the correct ministry.

9. THE ANSWERS FURNISHED BY THE MINISTRIES ARE ENTERED IN THE LIST OF QUESTIONS FOR THAT DAY BY THE RESPECTIVE SECRETARIATS
10. SEPARATELY PRINTED LISTS OF THE STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS ARE ARRANGED FOR PLACING ON THE TABLE OF THE RESPECTIVE HOUSES AN HOUR BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SESSION
11. IF THE MINISTRY IS UNABLE TO FURNISH REPLY FORTY EIGHT HOURS BEFORE THE SESSION, THE MINISTER CONCERNED SHALL STATE, IN THE HOUSE, THE REASONS FOR NON-SUPPLY OF ANSWER
The Secretariat indicates in the question book "Reply not Received" and the question is transferred to the next Rota day for reply by the Ministry.
12. THE QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY (STARRED), AFTER THE MINISTRY HAS FURNISHED A REPLY, ARE TAKEN UP ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE

- Unstarred questions are not taken up on the floor of the House for oral answers, but they form a part of the record of the day's proceedings
- For Starred questions, each member is allowed maximum of three questions in Senate and 2 in National Assembly in his name on any one day.
- When the Speaker or the Chairman calls the member in the order in which the names appear on the question list, the member rises in his seat and gives the number of the question (does not read the question).
- The Speaker says, "The Answer is taken as read"
- The member concerned (if present) is given an opportunity by the Chairman/Speaker to ask a supplementary question.
- If the Supplementary question is within the parameters of the original question then the Minister is required to furnish the oral reply.
- If the Supplementary question is not relevant the Minister can ask for a fresh notice and then the member is asked by the Chair to submit a fresh question.
- The Chair recognizes other members' supplementary questions (ordinarily up to three supplementary questions are allowed to be asked in respect of any question).
- If the starred question list is not exhausted – then the remaining questions are treated as unstarred questions and form a part of the record of the day's proceedings.

THE PROCESS IN THE GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES

The Process of questions in the Government Ministries is governed under Rule 45 of the Federal Government Rules of Business, 1973 which provides as follows:

Rule 45 Questions:

1. On receipt, from the appropriate Secretariat, of a question (starred, unstarred or short notice) proposed to be asked by a member, the Division concerned shall draft a reply and after it has been approved by the Minister forward the required numbers of copies of the reply to the appropriate Secretariat before the day on which the question is put down for answer. In case of a starred question, a brief be prepared by the Division concerned for the use of the Minister in answering any supplementary questions that may be asked.
2. A copy of each supplementary question asked in respect of a starred question, and of the reply given thereto, shall be forwarded by the appropriate Secretariat to the Division concerned, as soon as possible after the proceedings have been transcribed.
3. The Division concerned shall be responsible for the fulfillment of any undertakings given on its behalf in reply to a question or a supplementary question.

The Federal Government Rules of Business [Rule 31] also provide that all divisions shall comply with the Rules of Procedure and Standing Orders of the Assembly, the Senate or the Joint Sitting as the case may be.



THE USE OF THE QUESTION PERIOD

The purpose is to:

1. Show the potential of parliamentary questions for obtaining information and committing the government to action;
2. Improve the skills of the parliamentarian in using parliamentary questions; and
3. Examine how the question period could be improved.

NB The question period has other meanings than holding the government to account or trying to find out information. e.g. opposition members will do better if they know the answers to the questions they ask and government members may not be seeking to hold the government to account. It is also a showcase for ministers and members and something that the parties will seek to manage.



THE ADVANTAGES OF QUESTIONS

1. The bedrock of democracy – a powerful statement that the parliament has the right to call a minister here on this day to answer this question from the people's elected representatives. It is the Minister's duty to at least not mislead.
2. It can link valuably with the member's constituency work.
3. It is highly visible – demonstrates that the representative is fulfilling his or her duty to country, constituency and member's peers.
4. It visibly demonstrates the competence or otherwise of ministers and ministry.
5. The importance of parliamentary privilege to give free speech and safeguards to parliamentarians.

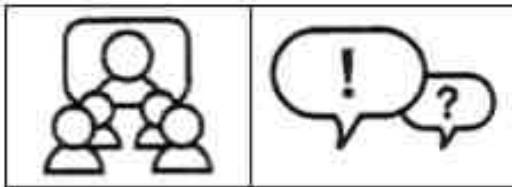


THE LIMITATIONS OF QUESTIONS

1. They tend to be one off events – not developmental.
2. Information is under the control of the government, which gives it many advantages.
3. The restriction in standing orders on questions e.g. time limits, sub judice rule, security, commercial confidentiality, devolved matters.

DISTINCTION BETWEEN WRITTEN AND ORAL QUESTIONS

1. Written questions may be genuinely seeking after information as a research resource.
2. Written questions can be part of a developing campaign, but oral questions have more political theatre about them.



VIDEO CLIP OF BRITISH PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME

What can we learn about Question Hour from the video clip?

Session 3

Should Question Hour be Changed? and How?

- OBJECTIVES By the end of this session, participants will be able to:
- Compare the question period in the House of Commons, United Kingdom, with the parliamentary practices in Pakistan
 - Explain the context of question hour



DIFFERENCES IN THE UK PRACTICES IN QUESTION HOUR

These are substantial but basically they amount to the Pakistan Parliament not having established its rights fully, under the tradition of separation of powers and parliamentary privileges, vis a vis the executive.

Suggestions for change would flow, (after discussion) from the differences pointed out below:

1. All the UK ministers, including the Prime Minister, have to answer questions- the Prime Minister answers weekly. It is televised live and other question sessions could also be telecasted.
2. In the UK, the parliament is not requesting government ministries to attend for questions - they are expected to attend and there would be a major crisis if a Minister did not turn up. He does not have the right to decide if he or she is ready - he has to be.
3. The UK Parliament has a much more settled routine from which question hour benefits - it is known when parliament will be sitting - that does not vary except to put in extra time. There is a four - week rota, in which departments answer questions at a fixed time on a fixed day each month. This is important for making question time a success.
4. Usually one department faces questions in the question time in Britain.
5. In the UK, answers have to be given within three days of submission - in Pakistan it is 13-15 days.
6. UK questions are not answered in order of submission but after a ballot.
7. The UK rules for question are much more simple and follow principle, rather than seek to meet every possible contingency.
9. In the UK, the Shadow Ministers are given opportunity to ask a limited number of questions arising from the questions that are being asked. There are no UK limits on the number of questions that can be asked for written reply and members can submit only one oral question per government department for a question time session.
10. The UK Speaker does not have power to classify questions as written rather than oral - or ban a question because it is too large for a question.
11. In Pakistan, oral answers are known in advance. It is not so in the UK.

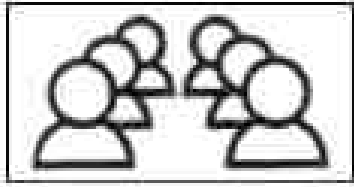
12. UK questions are much shorter although there is not a fixed limit, such as 150 words on questions.
13. There are no questions to private members in the UK.
14. There is no UK provision that the Chairman may not admit a notice seeking to revise the policy of the government.
15. In the UK, there is no provision for a Government Assurances Committee.



THE CONTEXT OF QUESTION HOUR

In addition to this, Question Hour in the UK occurs within a framework that considerably supplements the formal question hour. This is very important for increasing the accountability of the executive:

- For every major policy initiative, the government would be expected to make a policy statement first in Parliament and then face immediate questions on this - the Speaker would reprimand the Government if this does not occur.
- For every significant event, e.g. earthquake, major visit to another country, the minister involved would be expected to make a statement and face questions.
- There is a functioning system of select committees (called standing committees in Pakistan), that would be examining each department's policy, writing a report to which the government must respond within a given time limit.



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

In light of the information presented on the historical evolution and comparative practices, should Question Hour be improved? How would you change Question Hour in your house? *Think of and write down at least six ways that you might suggest about changing the Question Hour:*

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Session 4

Qualities of Good Oral Questions and How to build on them

- OBJECTIVES** By the end of this session, participants will be able to:
- Use common strategies for effectively framing questions and supplementary questions
 - Appreciate the importance of supplementary questions
 - Formulate and pose good questions



THE ART OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

A good supplementary question will depend on your motives for asking the question - is it to support the government? In which case it makes sense to tell the Minister your supplementary so that the quality of the reply can be improved. You will want to make sure that you look constructive – not sycophantic.

Is it to demonstrate your own virtues? e.g. to obtain progress for your constituency – again, it may make sense to inform the government, so that it may be a win-win for you and the government. You are able to show progress as part of a long campaign for improvement.

Is it to criticise or put pressure on the government?

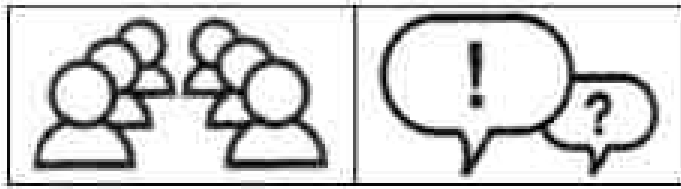


THOUGHTS ON SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

1. Should you ever ask a question to which you do not know the answer? You should have worked out what has been said to the Minister by those briefing.
2. The virtues of brevity – why give the minister time to think? A long supplementary has the risk that you will lose your way in it and the government's supporters will derail you.
3. The Minister should have been briefed on the line to take, and your possible motives for asking the question. Your search is for a supplementary, which is significant, shows that the briefing was inadequate and demonstrates that you have more information than the Minister.
4. Avoid complexity – the question format cannot cope with it and you will lose the House.
5. Ideally, your supplementary should be in a shape for the media whom you may have forewarned. Are there human-interest stories to give flavour and punch to the story? To give your story “legs”, make sure you let the “victim” know that

you are asking the question and that they will support you. Don't hurt your source.

6. The high-risk perils of humour – it has to be good or you will be the joke.
7. Do not annoy the Speaker e.g. by length or by straying out of order – you lose when this happens.
8. The virtues of teamwork – can your colleagues help you, by being primed with supplementaries?
9. Can your frontbench colleagues follow through for you?
10. A question is realistically seen as part of a process of undermining rather than as a killer blow.
11. The Minister always has the last word.



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- What makes a good question?
- What are the qualities of a good question?
- Identify the means by which you get the most out of the experience.

Discuss this in your group for the next 30 minutes. Create two sample questions that illustrate your points.

1. Sample Question 1

2. Sample Question 2

Session 5

How can we build on Question Time to Increase Accountability in Parliament?

- OBJECTIVES By the end of this session, participants will be able to:
- Identify different tools of accountability that can be introduced in the Parliament
 - Identify the steps needed to introduce the tools of accountability



QUESTIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The theory is that questions increase accountability but how much do they really? This, for instance, depends on:

1. Norms and values of parliament and parliamentarians – what is the climate of parliament? – Does it allow scrutiny? – NB it is noteworthy that in select committees where anything but a unanimous decision is taken; all party report is thought to be a waste of time.
2. Do the organisational rules and structures of parliament help effective questioning?
3. The context within which parliament works. E.g. power of patronage, lack of separation of powers, the idea of an elected dictatorship.

There is a risk that parliament becomes a virility test, or games playing.



DEVELOPING ADDITIONAL MECHANISMS OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Many parliaments, whilst recognising the importance of questions in holding governments to account have realised that legislatures have needed to develop additional mechanisms to increase the effectiveness of democratic accountability.

These tools are numerous, but include:

- Improved legislative scrutiny and pre-legislative scrutiny of intended bills;
- Public accounts committees;
- Select committees;
- Cross cutting questions;
- Extra debating chambers with back benchers setting the agenda;
- Cross party groups;
- Opposition days;
- Adjournment debates;

- Private members' legislation;
- Urgency questions;
- Ministerial codes of conduct;
- Strengthening links with civil society;
- Freedom of Information Acts; etc

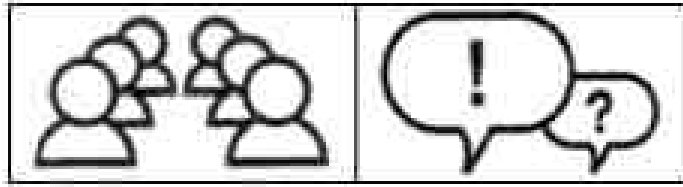
What would you do?

In Pakistan, there also needs to be an investigation of the procedure followed during the passing of legislation to see how scrutiny can be strengthened to ensure better law making.

At the moment, the expectations of Question Hour may be too high because of the lack of other mechanisms for holding the government to account. But there is unanimity about its importance in the democratic process. It is also clear that parliamentarians are considerably handicapped by the lack of research resources, both for themselves and for their parliamentary bodies, which should be augmented. There is also a lack of access to alternative information; civil society needs to be strengthened and links between it and parliament strengthened. The political parties also need to do far more to train and support their representatives.

NB Question Hour also has to be arranged so that Government supporters can see some value in it for themselves. It is not just about the opposition holding the government to account.

Question Hour works best when those asking the questions know a great deal.



SMALL GROUP BRAINSTORMING

HOW CAN WE BUILD ON QUESTION TIME TO INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY IN PARLIAMENT?

Looking at the list of those mechanisms that have been suggested or introduced into other parliaments,

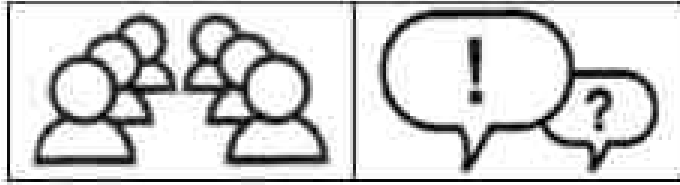
1. What are the other tools of accountability that can be introduced into the Parliament in Pakistan?

2. What would need to be done to make those changes?

Session 6

Recommendations for Improved Question Hour

- OBJECTIVE By the end of this session, participants will be able to:
- Identify and implement different steps to improve question hour in their House



INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION WITH THE FACILITATORS

Group leaders to present the recommendations that were brought up in their respective groups in Session 3 (Six ways to change the Question Hour)

AFTER THE DISCUSSION

Answer the following questions:

1. What can be introduced in your house to improve question hour?

2. What steps need to be taken to introduce those changes in your house?

Appendices

Appendix-I

SENATE SECRETARIAT

ORDERS OF THE DAY

for the meeting of the Senate to be held at 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 13th March, 2013.

1. Recitation from the Holy Quran.

QUESTIONS

2. Questions entered in a separate list to be asked and answers given.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

3. **MR. FAROOQ HAMID NAEK**, Minister for Law and Justice, to move that the Bill to establish National Counter Terrorism Authority in Pakistan [The National Counter Terrorism Authority Bill, 2013], as passed by the National Assembly, be taken into consideration.

4. **MR. FAROOQ HAMID NAEK**, Minister for Law and Justice, to move that the Bill to establish National Counter Terrorism Authority in Pakistan [The National Counter Terrorism Authority Bill, 2013] be passed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

5. **MR. MOHAMMAD ISHAQ DAR** to move that under rule 263 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012, the requirement of rule 120 of the said Rules be dispensed with in order to take into consideration the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1976 (LXXXV of 1976) and the Conduct of General Elections Order, 2002 (Chief Executive's Order No.7 of 2002) [The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2013], as passed by the National Assembly.

6. **MR. MOHAMMAD ISHAQ DAR** to move that the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1976 (LXXXV of 1976) and the Conduct of General Elections Order, 2002 (Chief Executive's Order No.7 of 2002) [The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2013], as passed by the National Assembly, be taken into consideration.

7. **MR. MOHAMMAD ISHAQ DAR** to move that the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1976 (LXXXV of 1976) and the Conduct of

General Elections Order, 2002 (Chief Executive's Order No.7 of 2002) [The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2013] be passed.

MOTION
(Under Rule 60)

8. SENATORS FARHATULLAH BABAR AND AITZAZ AHSAN to move for discussion on the following matter of sufficient public importance arising out of the answer to starred question No.18 replied on 5th March, 2013:-

"regarding the names of superior courts judges having dual nationality."

CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE

9. SENATOR ABDUL HASEEB KHAN to draw attention of the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Planning and Development, Economic Affairs and Statistics, to a matter of sufficient public importance regarding problems being faced by the universities and the higher educational institutions in the country due to budget deficit.

IFTIKHAR ULLAH BABAR
Secretary

Islamabad, the
12th March, 2013.

Appendix-II

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

ORDERS OF THE DAY

for the meeting of the National Assembly to be held on Thursday, the 14th March, 2013 at 11.00 a.m.

1. Recitation from the Holy Quran.

QUESTIONS

2. Questions entered in a separate list to be asked and answers given.

CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE

3. **MS. IMRANA SAEED JAMIL** **DR. NAHID SHAHID ALI**
MR. MUHAMMAD REHAN HASHMI **SHEIKH SALAHUDDIN**
DR. MUHAMMAD AYUB SHIEKH to invite attention of the Minister for Interior to a matter of urgent public importance regarding attack on media persons by the drug mafia in Tando Meer Muhammad, Hyderabad, causing grave concern amongst the public.

MOTION

4. **MR. JAMSHAD AHMAD DASTI**, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Capital Administration and Development, to move that the delay in the presentation of the report of the Standing Committee on the Bill to constitute and restructure the status of National Institute of Science and Technical Education, Islamabad as Degree Awarding Institute [The National Institute of Science and Technical Education (Islamabad), Bill, 2012], till today be condoned.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-PRESENTATION OF :-

5. **MR. JAMSHAD AHMAD DASTI**, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Capital Administration and Development, to present the report of the Standing Committee on the Bill to constitute and restructure the status of National Institute of Science and Technical Education, Islamabad as Degree Awarding Institute [The National Institute of Science and Technical Education (Islamabad), Bill, 2012].
6. **ENGINEER USMAN KHAN TARAKAI**, Chairman of the Special Committee on Energy Crisis to present the report of the said Committee with reference to the motion adopted by the House to look into the reasons leading to the current power crisis in the country and propose steps to alleviate the power shortage.
7. **MR. AHSAN IQBAL**, Chairman of the Special Committee on Media Personnel to present the report of the said Committee with reference to the motion adopted by the House to investigate the issue of threats to journalists and media personnel.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

8. **MR. SALEEM H. MANDVIWALLA**, Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Planning and Development to move that the Bill further to amend the Cost and Management Accountants Act, 1966 [The Cost and Management Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2013], as reported by the Standing Committee, be taken into consideration at once.
9. **MR. SALEEM H. MANDVIWALLA**, Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Planning and Development to move that the Bill further to amend the Cost and Management Accountants Act, 1966 [The Cost and Management Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2013], be passed.

March 2013

10. **MR. SALEEM H. MANDVIWALLA**, Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Planning and Development to move that the Bill to amend tax laws [The Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2012], as reported by the Standing Committee, be taken into consideration at once.

(Amendments entered in a separate list to be moved)

11. **MR. SALEEM H. MANDVIWALLA**, Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Planning and Development to move that the Bill to amend the laws [The Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2012], be passed.

12. **SYED NAVEED QAMAR**, Minister for Defence to move that the Bill to provide for constitution and regulation of Survey of Pakistan [The Surveying and Mapping Bill, 2013], as reported by the Standing Committee, be taken into consideration at once.

13. **SYED NAVEED QAMAR**, Minister for Defence to move that the Bill to provide for constitution and regulation of Survey of Pakistan [The Surveying and Mapping Bill, 2013], be passed.

14. **MR. FAROOQ H. NAEK**, Minister for Law and Justice and Parliamentary Affairs to move that the Bill further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan [The Constitution (Twenty-third Amendment) Bill, 2012], as reported by the Standing Committee, be taken into consideration at once.

(Amendments entered in a separate list to be moved)

15. **MR. FAROOQ H. NAEK**, Minister for Law and Justice and Parliamentary Affairs to move that the Bill further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan [The Constitution (Twenty-third Amendment) Bill, 2012] be passed.

MOTION UNDER RULE 259

16. **Further** discussion on the following motion moved by Mr. A. Rehman Malik, Minister for Interior on the 3rd September, 2012:-

“That this House may discuss the prevailing law and order situation in the country.”

CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE

17. **JUSTICE (R) FAKHAR-UN-NISA KHOKHER**
SHAZIA MARI

MS. ASIYA NASIR
MR. NAZIR AHMED BUGHIO

MS. BUSHRA GOHAR to invite attention of the Minister for Interior to a matter of urgent public importance regarding indiscriminate firing on the occasions of marriage resulting in terrible casualties in Islamabad, causing grave concern amongst the public.

Islamabad, the
13th March, 2013

KARAMAT HUSSAIN NIAZI
Secretary

Appendix-III

91st Session

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”*to be asked at a sitting of the Senate to be held on***Wednesday, the 13th March, 2013**

#13. ***Mr. Karim Ahmed Khawaja:** (Notice received on 08-02-2013 at 14:10 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Law and Justice be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of cases lying pending in each High Court with category-wise break-up; and*
- (b) the reasons for not disposing off the said cases so far and the time by which the same will be disposed off?*

Mr. Farooq Hamid Naek: The information is not available in this Division. Therefore, the Registrars of High Courts have been requested to provide the requisite information. The same is still awaited and will be provided in the house as early as received.

@14. ***Mr. Karim Ahmed Khawaja:** (Notice received on 08-02-2013 at 14:10 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Law and Justice be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of cases lying pending in the Supreme Court of Pakistan with category-wise break-up; and*
- (b) the reasons for not disposing off the said cases so far and the time by which the same will be disposed off?*

Deferred from 5th March, 2013.

@ Deferred from 5th March, 2013.

Mr. Farooq Hamid Naek: The information is not available in this Division. Therefore, the Registrar of Supreme Court of Pakistan has been requested to provide the requisite information. The same is still awaited and will be provided in the house as early as received.

65. ***Mr. Karim Ahmed Khawaja:** (Notice received on 11-02-2013 at 09:15 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Law and Justice be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of suo moto action taken by each High Court of the country since 2009;*
- (b) the number of the said cases disposed off so far; and*
- (c) the number of the said cases lying pending at present and the time by which the same will be disposed off?*

Mr. Farooq Hamid Naek: The information is being collected from the concerned quarters.

67. ***Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:** (Notice received on 18-02-2013 at 09:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the contract for Karachi - Hyderabad Motorway (M-9) project was awarded to a Malaysian Company 'Vinapuri' on the basis of BOT;*
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the said contract has been cancelled, if so, the reasons therefore; and*
- (c) the time by which the construction of the said motorway will be restarted?*

Dr. Arbab Alamgir Khan: (a) Yes, the concession agreement was signed on January 16, 2012 with M/s Bina Puri of Malaysia for construction of Karachi - Hyderabad Motorway (M-9) project on BOT basis.

(b) Yes, the contract was terminated because of failure on the part of M/s Bina Puri to achieve Financial Close within stipulated time period i.e till July 15, 2012.

(c) Initially, M-9 was planned to be implemented on Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) basis. Since this has not materialized, it has now been decided to commence this project through PSDP. Project is being awarded to FWO on single source basis in the light of Federal Cabinet's decision to accord waiver from PPRA Rules.

Work has not been started as yet. Deliberations with FWO for finalization of contract agreement are ongoing. Construction period will be two years after commencement of work.

68. ***Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:** (Notice received on 18-02-2013 at 09:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state..

- (a) *the length of motorway from Faisalabad to Multan to be constructed;*
 (b) *the time by which the construction of said motorway will be completed; and*
 (c) *the estimated cost of the project?*

Dr. Arbab Alamgir Khan: (a) NHA has planned/undertaken construction of Faisalabad - Khanewal - Multan Motorway (M-4, 241 km) in four packages:—

Pack	Section	Km
I.	Faisalabad - Gojra	58
II.	Gojra - Shorkot	62
III.	Shorkot-Dinpur-Khanewal*	64
IV.	Khanewal - Multan	57
Total		241

*Including River Ravi & Sidhni Channel Bridges.

- (b) Faisalabad - Gojra (Pack-I). Work is likely to be completed by December-2013.

Gojra - Shorkot - Khanewal (Packs-II & III). Land acquisition is held up due to non availability of funds. Work will be awarded once land acquisition process is completed [Annex-A]. After award of works, planned construction period will be 30 months.

Khanewal - Multan (Pack-V). Work is likely to be completed by December-2014.

- (c) The approved PC-I cost of M-4 is as follows:—

	Section	Km	Rs. in M
a.	Faisalabad - Khanewal	184	32,521,379
b.	Khanewal-Multan	57	14,494,942

ISLAMABAD :
The 12th March, 2013.

IFTIKHAR ULLAH BABAR,
Secretary.

PCPPI— 2279(13) Senate—12-3-2013—275.



Appendix-I V

1

(50th Session)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

to be asked at a sitting of the National Assembly to be held on

Thursday, the 14th March, 2013

122. ***Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the Pakistan Railways is obtaining loan from the National Bank of Pakistan for repairing its locomotives; if so, the total amount thereof; and*
- (b) *the details of defects of said locomotives?*

Minister for Railways (Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilour): (a) A loan of Rs. 6,100.000 million has been arranged by the Ministry of Finance from a Banking Consortium to be led by National Bank of Pakistan to Pakistan Railways Advisory & Consultancy Services, a subsidiary of Pakistan Railways. Procurement of spare parts for rolling out 60 held up locomotives is under process.

(b) Heavy repairs are involved in these 60 D.E. Locomotives involving Crankshaft, Power Assemblies, Turbo Supercharger, High/Low Tension wiring, Air compressor/exhauster, Radiators, Traction Motors, Bogie Truck parts and Electrical/Electronic parts etc.

123. ***Mrs. Nisar Tanveer:**

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the Railways tracks have been removed in some areas of the country during the last five years; if so, the locations alongwith the value thereof; and*

2

(b) *the utilization of the said land?*

Minister for Railways (Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilour): (a) No Railway Tracks have been removed during the last five years.

(b) Not applicable.

124. ***Mrs. Nisar Tanveer:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) *the volume of bilateral trade with China at present; and*

(b) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to increase the volume of said trade: if so, the time by which it will be implemented?*

Minister for Commerce (Makhdoom Muhammad Amin Fahim):

(a)	(Value in Million US\$)				
	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
	Exports	Exports	Exports	Exports	Exports
	684.8	701.0	1153.9	1633.8	2183.7

Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 684.8 million during the year 2007-08 and US\$ 2.2 billion during the year 2011-12 showing an increase of 219%.

(Value in Million US\$)				
2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Imports	Imports	Imports	Imports	Imports
4696.358	4085.742	4410.55	5789.452	6717.25

Pakistan's Imports from China were \$ 4.7 Billion in 2007-8 which rose to \$ 6.7 billion in the year 2011-12 registering an increase of 43%.

3

(b) The negotiations for the 2nd phase of China-Pak Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) commenced in March 2011. The two sides agreed to develop roadmap for moving ahead in the second phase and to finalize the tariff reduction modality aiming at further deepening of tariff concessions.

Ministry of Commerce is currently in the process of preparation for the 2nd Meeting of the 2nd phase of PCFTA. The ongoing consultations with stakeholders will be completed shortly. The 2nd Meeting of the 2nd phase of PCFTA would be held in April 2013 in China.

125. ***Sheikh Muhammad Tariq Rasheed:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Ambassadors have not been appointed in a number of countries so far; if so, the reasons thereof;*
- (b) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to appoint Ambassador in those countries; if so, when it will be implemented; and*
- (c) *the steps being taken to assess the performance of an Ambassador in respective country?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar): (a) At present over 95% of our Missions abroad have a resident Ambassador. However, Missions do fall vacant on account of Superannuation or completion of tenure of an Ambassador, but they are filled in as soon as administratively possible.

(b) Posting of an Ambassador is a routine service matter. It is an ongoing process which takes place round the year.

(c) There is a comprehensive mechanism in place to check efficiency and performance of our Ambassadors. All Ambassadors are required to report on the activities with regard to promotion of Pakistan's interest, bilateral, political, economic and commercial relation with the countries of their accreditation. Ministry also issues instructions/guidelines to Heads of Mission, from time to time.

4

126. ***Sheikh Muhammad Tariq Rasheed:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the reconditioned vehicles are being imported in the country;*
- (b) *if so, the number of vehicles imported during the last one year?*

Minister for Commerce (Makhdoom Muhammad Amin Fahim):

(a) There is no provision for import of reconditioned vehicles in Import Policy Order, 2009.

(b) Relates to Federal Board of Revenue.

127. ***Rana Mehmood-ul-Hassan:**

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that funds have been allocated for Circular Railways Project, Karachi; if so, the time by which said funds will be released; and*
- (b) *whether the construction work on the said project will be started during the current financial year; if so, the date thereof?*

Minister for Railways (Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilour): (a) For the year 2012-13, an allocation of Rs. 10.00 million has been made for this project under Federal Government PSPD, out of which Rs. 6.50 million have been released by Planning Commission. Remaining funds for the last quarter are expected to be released by 10th April 2013.

(b) Construction work on the said project will not start during the current financial year 2012-13.

The construction work for the project shall start after resettlement of project affected persons. During 2012-13, a boundary wall is proposed to be constructed at Juma Goth where the project affected persons shall be resettled.

5

128. ***Rana Mehmood-ul-Hassan:**

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) *the details of year-wise train accidents occurred during the last five years;*
- (b) *the total loss suffered to Pakistan Railways therefrom; and*
- (c) *the total number of persons died/injured during the said period alongwith the compensation paid to those passengers who died/injured during those accidents?*

Minister for Railways (Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilour): (a) The 678 Railway accidents of different descriptions occurred on the railway system during the last five years. Out of these 678 railway accidents 52.65% accidents occurred at level crossings.

(b) Pakistan Railways suffered loss of Rs. 108.64 millions during the last five years due to Railway accidents.

(c) The total number of 30 railway passengers, 2 railway employees and 140 road users were killed during the last five years. 206 railway passengers, 7 railway employees and 294 road users were injured during the last five years.

Pakistan Railways paid Rs. 17.10 million as compensation passengers/ railway employees who died/injured during those accidents.

129. ***Mr. Wasim Akhtar Sheikh:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that export of leather garments is decreasing day by day; if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (b) *the steps being taken by the Government to increase the export of said garments?*

6

Minister for Commerce (Makhdoom Muhammad Amin Fahim):

(a) i. Exports of Leather garments during 2008-09 were **US\$ 392.5 million** which increased to **US\$ 404.3 million** in 2010-11 showing an increase of 3.0%.

ii. In 2011-12 exports of Leather Garments came down to **US\$ 341.0 million**. The decline in the export of leather garments for the year 2011-12 as compared to 2010-11 is **15.65%** in terms of value and **13%** in terms of quantity.

iii. Exports of leather Garments during **July-January 2012-13** again increased by 5.6% from **US\$ 221.5 million** to **US\$ 234.0 million** during the corresponding period 2011-12.

iv. Export data of last five (05) years is as under:

Year	000Dozen	Million US\$
2008-09	883	392.5
2009-10	885	342.7
2010-11	998	404.3
2011-12	868	341.0
2011-12 (July-Jan)	536	221.5
2012-13 (July-Jan)	561	234

Source: FBS

Reasons for decline in export of Leather garments:

- i. Rising cost of production.
- ii. Little availability of leather and its high prices.
- iii. Law & Order situation in Karachi in particular and Pakistan in general
- iv. Energy crises.

(b) Following steps have been initiated by Ministry of Commerce in consultation with major players of leather sector and Ministry of Industries to enhance the export of leather garments:—

7

- i. Total amount of **Rs. 881.917** million has been released from 1992-1993 up to **05-03-2013** for the leather sector from Export development Fund of the Ministry of Commerce.
- ii. In order to improve supply chain of leather sector exports, **25% financial cost** for setting up of design centers and labs has been provided by the Ministry of Commerce.
- iii. Installation of flaying machines in slaughter houses at district level.
- iv. Request of Sialkot Chamber of Industry for provision of **common effluent treatment plant** for its leather industry has been agreed to by the Ministry of Commerce and is currently under process at Ministry of Industries.
- v. During fiscal year 2011-12, TDAP organized Pakistan's participation in nine (9) trade fairs/exhibitions of leather garments and its accessories. Two (2) fairs were allocated to Pakistan Leather Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PLGMEA) in year 2011-2012 and in 2012-13 as well. In these events, 50% subsidy was provided to the trade bodies towards space rent and construction of stalls.

130. Disallowed on re-consideration.

131. ***Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the country-wise total quantity of ginger and tomatoes imported during the year 2011-12 till date alongwith the total value and reasons/justification thereof particular with regard to the status of Pakistan as an agriculture country?

Minister for Commerce (Makhdoom Muhammad Amin Fahim):

(a) The year and country-wise import statistics regarding ginger and tomatoes along with value thereof are placed at **Annex-I**.

Pakistan imports fresh vegetables specially ginger and tomatoes from Middle East and South Asian countries.

8

There is no denying the fact that Pakistan is an agricultural country but due to different seasons cultivation and harvest differs, and in order to fulfill the market demand in off seasons, certain vegetables are imported and vegetables like tomato which are perishable have to be consumed early.

Annexure-I**Imports of Ginger and Tomatoes**

Country	2010-2011		2011-2012		2012-2013 (July-August)	
	KG	000 Rs.	KG	000 Rs.	KG	000 Rs.
GINGER	53635265	4607690	71691613	3609561	8616395	502346
China	39853462	3619125	57339694	3034441	8423264	488392
Ethiopia					21000	1383
India	5368987	423119	712128	61038	172131	12071
Myanmar	67400	4887	10810	1013		
Nigeria	13000	853	--	--		
Thailand	8326416	559201	13625002	512884		
United Arab Emirates	6000	504	3979	286		
TOMATOES, FRESH OR CHILLED	146377527	4496919	214891394	9224434	1593197	65589
Afghanistan	4256934	95202	4047483	55540	1591547	65524
Belgium	14580	445	--	--		
India	141887196	4396302	210208897	9148559	--	--
Iran (Islamic R.)	113084	2140	573516	18145		
Jordan	--	--	21211	648		
Oman	31640	949	--	--		
Thailand	1166	28	--	--	1650	66
United Arab Emirates	72927	1852	39373	1510		
United Kingdom	--	--	914	32		

Source: PBS

132. *Ms. Khalida Mansoor:

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the year-wise total quantity of wheat exported during the last three years till date alongwith the names of countries and value thereof?

Minister for Commerce (Makhdoom Muhammad Anis Fahim):

Statement showing the year-wise total quantity of wheat exported during the last three years till date alongwith the names of countries and value thereof is at **Annex-I**. Pakistan exports wheat mainly to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Kenya, Malaysia, Philippines, Qatar, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates and Yemen etc.

9

Annex-I

PAKISTAN'S EXPORTS OF WHEAT FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS

Wheat	2012-13 (July-Aug)		2011-12		2010-11		2009-10	
	MT	000 US\$	MT	000 US\$	MT	000 US\$	MT	000 US\$
WHEAT	80927	24537	613,673	172,052	2,781,050	586,603	2,516	733
Afghanistan	5153	1559	31,385	9,908	41,753	15,620	3,497	719
Australia	—	—	—	—	10	4	—	—
Bangladesh	—	—	35,954	11,643	697,084	231,567	—	—
Dubai	—	—	—	—	55,000	10,500	—	—
Hong Kong S.A. Reg. Chi	—	—	100	30	22	6	—	—
Indonesia	25193	7879	8,751	2,659	24,673	7,797	—	—
Jordan	—	—	130	40	338	119	—	—
Kenya	—	—	23,820	23,282	219,880	73,013	—	—
Madagascar	—	—	6	2	5,147	1,134	—	—
Malaysia	12334	3659	6,182	1,814	55,613	17,080	—	—
Mexico	2754	7394	—	—	3,005	1,022	—	—
Oman	—	—	475	140	7,756	2,329	—	—
Philippines	—	—	223	53	18,422	5,823	—	—
Saudi Arabia	—	—	5,500	1,624	25,468	14,278	—	—
Sri Lanka	—	—	9,803	2,915	61,071	20,536	—	—
Tanzania	—	—	—	—	7,341	723	—	—
Thailand	—	—	—	—	6,514	2,050	—	—
Togo	—	—	—	—	150	51	—	—
Tunisia	—	—	—	—	230	50	—	—
Uganda	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
United Arab Emirates	—	—	100,551	45,917	173,090	54,833	—	—
United Kingdom	—	—	—	—	33,000	13,288	—	—
United States	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yemen	—	—	14,000	4,229	223,250	79,945	—	—

ISLAMABAD;

The 13th March, 2013.

KARAMAT HUSSAIN NIAZI,
Secretary.

PCPPI—2285(13) NA—13-3-2013—700.

Appendix-V

1

50th Session

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”

For Thursday, the 14th March, 2013

101. Shaikh Rohale Asghar:

Will the Minister for Overseas Pakistanis be pleased to state whether it is a fact that no Community Welfare Attache (CWA) has been posted in Germany; if so, the reasons thereof along with the time by which CWA will be posted therein?

Minister for Overseas Pakistanis (Dr. Muhammad Farooq Sattar):

Yes, there is no Community Welfare Attache (CWA) in Embassy of Pakistan Germany.

The following factors are kept in view by the Government before taking a decision for opening an independent office of Community Welfare Attache (CWA) abroad:

- The number of Pakistani community in the foreign country and the nature and volume of their problems, necessitating the existence of independent CWA;
- Recommendations from the Pakistan Embassy for posting of a CWA when the volume of problems of Pakistanis community cannot be overcome with the existing strength of the Diplomatic Wing.

There is currently no proposal in hand for posting a CWA in Germany.

102. Mrs. Nisar Tanveer:

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

2

- (a) *the city-wise total land under the ownership of Pakistan Railways; at present;*
- (b) *the total land under the occupation of Pakistan Railways, at present;*
- (c) *the total land out of the above given on lease so far; and*
- (d) *the total land of Pakistan Railways under illegal occupation at present?*

Minister for Railways (Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilour): (a) Railway record is not maintained city-wise due to reason of its location along the track. However, it is maintained Division-wise and Section-wise. Detail is attached as Annexure- 'A'.

- (b) Total land under occupation of Pakistan Railways is as under:—

Province	Land Area (in acres)
Punjab	90326
Sindh	39428
Balochistan	28228
Khyber Pakhtoon Khwa	9708
Total:-	1,67,690

- (c) Total land given on lease so far is 11574 acres, out of which 11,329 acres are on short term leases and 245 acres are on long term leases.

- (d) Total land of Pakistan Railways under illegal occupation at present is 3135 acres. However, land measuring 2527 acres has been retrieved/regularized so far out of total 5662 acres.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

3

103. **Rana Mehmood-ul-Hassan:**

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that increase has been made in the fare of trains during the period from 1-1-2013 till date; if so, the details thereof?

Minister for Railways (Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilour): No increase has been in the fare of trains during the period from 01-01-2013 till date.

104. **Rana Mehmood-ul-Hassan:**

Will the Minister for States and Frontier Regions be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of departments working under the Ministry at present alongwith the details thereof;*
- (b) the objectives achieved therefrom during the year 2012-13?*

Reply not received.

105. **Sheikh Muhammad Tariq Rasheed:**

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of employees presently working in Rawalpindi, Lahore and Karachi Railways Stations at present alongwith the names and designations thereof; and*
- (b) the operations, carrying out by those employees?*

Reply not received.

KARAMAT HUSSAIN NIAZI,
Secretary.

ISLAMABAD:
The 13th March, 2013.

PCPPT 2285 (2013) NA 13-3-2013 700.

EDITOR'S PROFILE

Mr. Muhammad Faisal Israr is presently the Senior Research Officer (Strategic Issues/IR) at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services, who is also one of the key members of Institute's Research Wing, which undertakes development of publications and outreach. Mr. Muhammad Faisal Israr has conducted various research papers for parliamentarians in 2012-13.

Mr. Israr has multi-facet experience of 10 years in the field of Financial Services at Saudi Pak Investment Company, IGI Investment Bank, Askari Bank, JS Investments, Deutsche Bank - encompassing Capital Markets, Investment & Commercial Banking, Mutual Funds, Credits and Policy Making. He served as Saudi Pak's nominee director on the Board of Japan Power Generation Ltd.

He attended courses/ training programmes at national level in Six Sigma, SAP, Business Continuity Management Fundamentals, Fund Management, Financial & Investment Decision-making from accredited institutes. At international level he participated in International Training Programme for Securities Market Professionals 2007 organized by South Asian Federation of Exchanges.

Mr. Muhammad Faisal Israr is a graduate and Masters in Business Administration with specialization in Finance from Institute of Business Administration, Karachi. He imparted trainings and served as Instructor, Teaching Assistant, Grader for various courses.

SOURCES OF DATA

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