

SENATE FORUM FOR POLICY RESEARCH

Annual Report of SFPR

2016

SENATE OF PAKISTAN

SENATE FORUM FOR POLICY RESEARCH

Annual Report

The Senate Forum for Policy Research (SFPR) is guided by rules 269-rule 276 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Senate, 2012, which relate to the composition, functioning and tenure of the Forum.

Main function of the Forum is to assist the Hon'ble Members of the Senate and the Secretariat staff and recommend policy options / solutions on questions and issues of public importance.

The Forum during this year March 2016- February 2017, re-elected Senator (R) Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari as its Chairman, for another one year term. Current Composition of the Senate Forum for Policy Research is as following:

Name of the Member	Position
Senator Mian Raza Rabbani	Chairman Senate/ Patron of SFPR
Senator (R) Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari	Chairman - Senate Forum for Policy Research
Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq	Leader of the House/ Member
Senator Aitzaz Ahsan	Leader of the Opposition/ Member
Senator Farooq H. Naek	Member
Senator Saud Majeed	Member
Senator Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari	Member
Senator Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah	Member
Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed	Member
Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini	Member
Senator (R) Mr. Waseem Sajjad	Member
Senator (R) Ch. Muhammad Anwar Bhinder	Member
Senator (R) Mr. Javed Jabbar	Member
Senator (R) Mr. Afrasiab Khattak	Member
Senator (R) Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
Senator (R) Mr. Haroon Akhtar Khan	Member
Senator (R) Razina Alam Khan	Member

Activities of SFPR during this Parliamentary Year:

❖ **Integrated energy planning**

During January, 2016, Mr. Ziad Alahdad, former Director Operation- World Bank, gave a presentation on the “**Revival of integrated energy planning and policy formulation**”.

A Sub_committee was formulated to indicate ways and means to effectively take up these important issues and formulate recommendations for further submission to Senate of Pakistan.. The working strategy on Integrated Energy Planning is yet to be finalized.

❖ **Briefing on Tax Reforms Proposals by RAFTAAR (Civil Society Organization)**

The forum, studied the proposed tax reforms and held comprehensive discussions during April-May 2016, on the issue, in view of upcoming budget 2016-17. The briefing was mainly held to apprise the members of tax reform proposals, with support of the Non-Profit organization RAFTAAR (Research and Advocacy for the Advancement of Allied Reforms).

❖ **A Report on “The Comparative Analysis of Salaries and Allowances for Members of Parliaments of Common Wealth Countries (Australia, England, India and Pakistan)**

was prepared by SFPR team and presented to the Forum to assist in formulation of budget recommendations for the Senate.

❖ **Recommendations for the Budget 2016-2017**

1. The Forum prepared a “**Report on the Finance Bill and the Annual Budget Statement 2016**”. These recommendations were sent to the Senate Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization with the approval of Chairman Senate. More than 11 of these recommendations were included in the final report of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization.

❖ **Follow up on The Media Commission Report-2014**

Through continuous follow up and liaison with Ministry of Information a report was finally received by SFPR for further consideration on compliance and non-compliance status of Media Commission report. The report is expected to be examined by the Members of Forum for further engagement with the Ministry to achieve better results.

❖ **Report on Issues of Forest Depletion**

A report on Issues of Forest Depletion was finalized and submitted to the Senate Secretariate. As directed by the Chairman Senate, the report will be placed in the House for information and perusal of Honourable Senators.

❖ **Legislative Proposals**

The SFPR proposed some legislative business for consideration and further action. A Sub-Committee was formed to finalize the proposals. 3 legislative bills have thus been submitted to the House Business Advisory Committee on Behalf of the Leader of the House, who is also a member of the Forum. The Bills include:

- *The Supreme Court of Pakistan (Power to Review) Bill, 2016,*
- *The Council of Common Interest (Rules of Procedure) Bill, 2016,*
- *The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2016*

❖ **Second Volume of Alphabetical Catalogue of Laws of Pakistan - Preparatory work**

SFPR is actively involved in preparation of second volume of Alphabetical Catalogue of Laws of Pakistan. For this purpose, SFPR team is coordinating with all 41 Divisions of Government of Pakistan.

❖ **“State of Economy of Pakistan with special reference to the Debt & Foreign Exchange Reserves issue”**

On 9th January 2017, the Forum held a briefing on “State of Economy of Pakistan with special reference to the Debt & Foreign Exchange Reserves issue”. Key speakers from academia and civil society organization included **Dr. Eatzaz Ahmed (Academician & Senior Economist)** and **Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri (ED, SDPI)**.

❖ **China Pakistan Economic Corridor – Impact on Economy of Pakistan**

A Discussion involving The Hon’ble Minister for Planning, Development & Reform, and Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairperson Parliamentary Committee on CPEC is planned to take place in the second week of March 2017. It is planned with the prior consent of the Chairman Senate and Minister for planning.

