



PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018-21

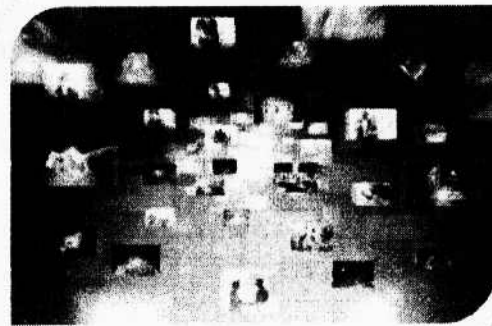


**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

Executive Summary

The Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting was constituted for the parliamentary tenure March 2018-21 in June 2018 under the chairmanship of Senator Faisal Javed. As compared to previous tenures, the current one witnessed significant change in the performance of the Committee wherein the Committee vigorously held meetings and visits and presented a plethora of reports on the matters of public importance and legislative business pertaining to the Information and Broadcasting Division.

The Committee took extra ordinary measures to oversight the performance of the Division and came up with recommendations to uplift its working. This report takes a look on major activities of the Committee in the last three years and analyzes its performance during the said period.



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Preface:

Committees in the parliamentary democracies are termed as eye and ears of the legislature. They oversee and monitor the public policy formulation and implementation mechanism of the government ministries in addition to play their vital role in legislation and representation.



The Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting started working in 2018 with the vision to support the plan of the federal government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan to revamp and revolutionize the public information system and reinforce Pakistan's global outreach. From overseeing performance of the state enterprises to ensuring active presence of the government departments on digital media, the Committee took unprecedented initiatives and came up with unique ideas to help the Ministry in promoting a dynamic and responsible media that upholds national integrity, celebrates diversity, promotes equality and ensures transparency.

The Committee firmly believes that the arduous journey that it undertook in 2018 has still a long way to go but it is always the first step that defines the destination. The Committee appreciates Chairman Committee Senator Faisal Javed who was the driving force for this demanding voyage and acknowledges the role of incumbent Secretary Committee Mr. Adnan Ibne Asad who provided the strategic assistance and backend support to the Committee in its working in addition to support in compilation and preparation of this report as well as support of former Secretary Committee Mr. Haris Rehman.

The Committee:

Senator Faisal Javed
Chairperson



Senator Khushbakht Shujat



Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi



Senator Pervaiz Rasheed



Senator Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi



Senator Atta Ur Rehman



Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi



Senator Moula Bux Chandio



Senator Rubina Khalid



Senator Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah



Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizinjo



Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar



Senator Kamran Michael



Adnan Ibne Asad
Secretary Committee

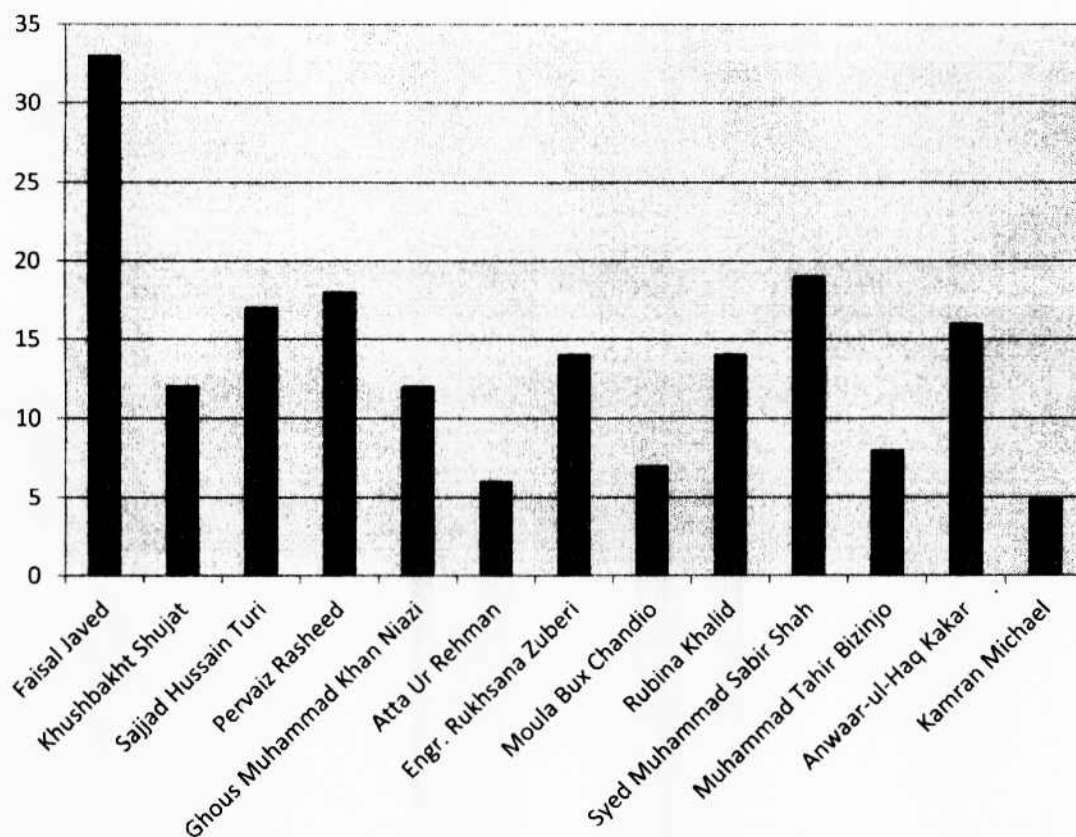


Meetings:

SNo.	Date of meeting	Meeting venue
1.	9 th May, 2018	Parliament House
2.	15 th May, 2018	Parliament House
3.	29 th May, 2018	Parliament Lodges
4.	05 th June, 2018	Parliament House
5.	02 nd July, 2018	Parliament House
6.	17 th July, 2018	Parliament House
7.	30 th August, 2018	PIPS, F-5/2
8.	5 th October, 2018	Parliament Lodges
9.	18 th October, 2018	Parliament House
10.	24 th October, 2018	Parliament House
11.	7 th January, 2019	Parliament House
12.	25 th February, 2019	PEMRA Headquarter
13.	23 rd May, 2019	Parliament Lodges
14.	3 rd July, 2019	Parliament House
15.	22 nd October, 2019	Parliament House
16.	13 th November, 2019	PBC Headquarter
17.	29 th January, 2020	Parliament House
18.	3 rd February, 2020	Parliament House
19.	11 th February, 2020	Parliament House
20.	22 nd July, 2020	Parliament Lodges
21.	19 th August, 2020	Parliament House
22.	26 th August, 2020	Parliament House
23.	2 nd September, 2020	Parliament House
24.	7 th September, 2020	PBC Headquarter
25.	11 th September, 2020	Parliament House
26.	17 th September, 2020	Parliament House
27.	2 nd October, 2020	Parliament House
28.	21 st October, 2020	Parliament House
29.	15 th January, 2021	Parliament Lodges

30.	21 st January, 2021	Parliament House
31.	27 th January, 2021	Parliament House
32.	10 th February, 2021	Parliament House
33.	11 th February, 2021	PTV Headquarter

Attendance in Meetings



Business Referred to the Committee:

S.No	Business referred by the House	Date of referral	Date of presentation of report in the House
1.	Government Bill titled "The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2018	12-07-2018	03-09-2018
2.	Media concerned over Restriction being imposed on Print and Electronic Media raised in the House	12-07-2018	21-07-2018
3.	Point of Public Importance regarding insult of Pashtuns in Govt. advertisement raised by Senator Usman Khan Kakar	18-09-2018	21-01-2019
4.	Point of Public importance regarding derogatory remarks of an analyst on ARY Channel about Pushtoons of KPK by Senator Muhammad Ali Khan Saif	28-08-2018	21-01-2019
5.	Grievances raised in the House on non-payment of Salaries to working journalist by many Private Media Houses for the last many months, referred by the House to Committee to report back within a week	27-01-2020	04-02-2020
6.	Matter regarding Secureness of employees of National Language Promotion Department, referred by Chairman Senate from his Chamber	18-02-2019	29-08-2019
7.	Point of Public Importance regarding removal of 38 employees from Press Club of Pakistan raised by Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi	04-03-2020	19-08-2020
8.	Starred Question No.1, asked by Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi, regarding the names, educational qualifications and experience of the Chairman and	03-03-2020	06-09-2020

Managing Director of Pakistan Television Corporation indicating also the the salary, allowances and other fringe benefits admissible to them in each case asked		
9.	Point of Public Importance regarding "closure of PTV Bolan Channel" raised by Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar	15-07-2020 16-09-2020
10	Bill titled "The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2020, introduced by Senator Faisal Javed	08-06-2020 16-09-2020
11	Point of Public Importance regarding "closure of PTV Bolan Channel" raised by Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar	15-07-2020 16-09-2020
12	Bill titled "The Press Council of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill, 2020, introduced by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi	13-07-2020 16-09-2020
13	Point of Public Importance regarding character Assassination of PPP Leaders on raised by Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	28-09-2018 16-10-2020
14	Point of Public Importance regarding character Assassination of PPP Leaders on raised by Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	28-09-2018 16-10-2020
15	Point of Public Importance regarding "issue of equal representation in talk shows on PTV" raised by Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	14-01-2020 20-10-2020
16	Point of Public Importance regarding "issue of equal representation in talk shows on PTV" raised by Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	14-01-2020 20-10-2020
17	Point of Public Importance regarding "non-adherence to the restriction of the expunged words raised by Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak	04-03-2020 29-10-2020
18	Point of Public Importance regarding "non-adherence	04-03-2020 29-10-2020

to the restriction of the expunged words raised by Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak		
19 Point of Public Importance raised by Senator Musaddiq Malik regarding "airing of incorrect map of Pakistan during live Transmission in the Senate	08-06-2020	26-01-2021
20 Point of Public Importance regarding "non-adherence to the restriction of the expunged words raised by Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak	04-03-2020	26-01-2021
21 Starred Q. No.2 asked by Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi in the House, regarding names, designations, grades, educational qualification and place of domicile of the persons appointed in PTVC during the last one year including their salaries, allowances and other fringe benefits.	03-03-2020	Disposed of. Forwarded for Presentation
22 Point of Public Importance raised by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed regarding airing of Indian sports channel in Pakistan despite PEMRA's complete ban on producing and Broadcasting Indian content.	18-09-2020	Disposed of. Forwarded for Presentation

Major Issues taken up by the Committee:



Inadequate coverage of Senate Sessions on PTV Parliament

Recommended that proceedings of the Senate session and Committee meetings should be given adequate coverage on PTV as matters of national importance are discussed there



Airing of indecent content on the PM

Expressed displeasure over airing of indecent content and defamatory attacks on Prime Minister and directed to ensure that such content may not be allowed to be telecasted in future



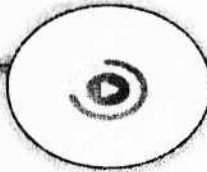
Payment of advertisement dues to the media outlets

Directed to ensure that all outstanding advertisement dues of the media outlets are duly paid and other issues related to PBA and APNS are also addressed



Delay in payments of salaries to media workers

Directed to ensure that the process of payments of arrears to the media workers is timely completed



Establishment of Pakistan's own web portal for local dramas and films

Recommended that DEMP should lead to establish a government administered web portal for airing of quality content for masses such as Netflix and Amazon Prime



Programming and Content on Radio Pakistan

Recommended that quality of production may be improved and special emphasizes should be given to diction and pronunciation of voice artists;

Directed that recitation of Holy Quran with translation in regional languages may be aired



Awareness Campaigns on Electronic Media

Directed that awareness campaigns against social evils and crimes such as child abuse and harassment of women should be aired in local and national languages



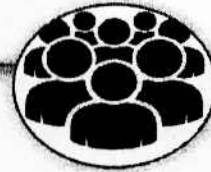
Programming and Content on PTV Sports

Directed that quality of production and content of programmes on PTV Sports should be improved and special focus be given on promos, montage and sports clips.



Equal Representation of Provinces on PTV

Directed the PTV to ensure that all provinces and their languages, cultures and political leadership are equally represented



Termination of services of contractual employees of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC)

Recommended to revisit the decision of terminating contractual employees of PBC and further recommended that they may be reinstated on pure merit grounds.



Payment of honorarium to employees

Directed the Ministry to coordinate with the Ministry of Finance for making arrangements to pay honorarium to the employees of APP, PTV and PBC who worked beyond office hours for the budget sessions of the Parliament



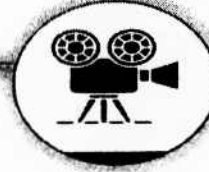
Payment of Pensions

Ensured that pensions are duly paid to the retired employees of Information & Broadcasting Division and allied departments.



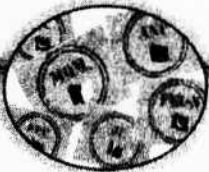
**Programming and Content on PTV
Global, PTV Home & PTV News**

Directed that quality of production and content of programmes on PTV Global, PTV Home & PTV News should be improved and models of BBC & TRT World may be followed.



Film Policy

Handed over a comprehensive and precise film policy to the Division after consulting with the relevant stake holders for revival of cinema in Pakistan



**Equal Representation of Political
Parties**

Directed the PTV to ensure equal representation of political parties on current affairs programme



Lok Virsa

Directed Lok Virsa to initiate awareness campaigns for preservation of national, folk and cultural heritage and collaborate with PTV for live marathons on special occasions and with universities for research and festivals.

Gallery:

The Committee had a unique privilege to work with six Federal Ministers/Advisors of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting namely Ms. Maryam Auranzeb, Mr. Ali Zafar, Mr. Fawad Hussain Chaudhary, Mr. Shafqat Mahmood, Mr. Firdous Ashiq Awan and Shibli Faraz in chronological order.



SENATOR FAISAL JAVED, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING AND NATIONAL HERITAGE PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON JULY 02, 2018.





SENATOR FAISAL JAVED, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING AND NATIONAL HERITAGE PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON MAY 23, 2019.



SENATOR FAISAL JAVED, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING AND NATIONAL HERITAGE PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2020.



SENATOR FAISAL JAVED, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON AUGUST 19, 2020.

Conclusion:

Taking cognizance of the fact that the contemporary public policy issues have multifaceted complexities, the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting endeavored to become an empowered and informed body to legislate in the larger public interest and oversight the policies and functions of the Executive. In doing so it outgrew not only its predecessors but emerged as the most dynamic Committee of Senate in the last three years with securing the top slot among the committees who presented most reports in the House on the referred matters in the parliamentary year 2020-21 despite suspension of Committee meetings due to COVID-19. The Committee not only enquired issues of the news and entertainment industry but came up with pragmatic proposals and recommendations for facilitation and development of a modern media landscape in line with the best international practices.

The Committee adopts this report and allows it to be presented before the House for perusal of the Hon'ble Chairman, Members and thereafter the general public.



(ADNAN IBNE ASAD)
Secretary Committee



(SENATOR FAISAL JAVED)
Chairman Committee