

SENATE OF PAKISTAN



**REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
ON
POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE REGARDING NON-ADHERENCE TO THE
RESTRICTION OF EXPUNGED WORDS RAISED BY SENATOR NAUMAN
WAZIR KHATTAK IN THE HOUSE ON 4TH MARCH, 2020**

REPORT NO. 09 OF 2020

**PRESENTED BY:
SENATOR FAISAL JAVED
CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING ON THE POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE REGARDING, NON-ADHERENCE TO THE RESTRICTION OF THE EXPUNGED WORDS RAISED BY SENATOR NAUMAN WAZIR KHATTAK IN THE HOUSE ON 4TH MARCH, 2020

I, Senator Faisal Javed, Chairman Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting have the honour to present, on behalf of the Committee, this report on Point Of Public Importance regarding Point of Public Importance regarding non-adherence to the restriction of the expunged words raised by Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak in the House on 4th March, 2020 and referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Committee is as under:

1. Senator Faisal Javed	Chairman
2. Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi	Member
3. Senator Anwaar ul Haq Kakar	Member
4. Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Member
5. Senator Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah	Member
6. Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
7. Senator Kamran Michael	Member
8. Senator Pervaiz Rashid	Member
9. Senator Moula Bux Chandio	Member
10. Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
11. Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
12. Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizenjo	Member
13. Senator Atta ur Rehman	Member
14. Minister for Information and Broadcasting	Ex-Officio Member

3. The Committee took up the matter in its meetings held on 24th July, 2020, 19th August, 2020, 11th September, 2020 and the final consideration of the matter was held in the meeting dated 2nd October, 2020, attended by the following:

1. Senator Faisal Javed	Chairman
2. Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi	Member
3. Senator Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah	Member
4. Senator Pervaiz Rashid	Member
5. Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
6. Senator Anwaar-Ul-Haq Kakar	Member
7. Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member

8. Senator Kamran Michael	Member
9. Senator Moula Bux Chandio	Member
10. Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
11. Senator Atta-Ur-Rehman	Member

4. During the course of briefings, the Committee deliberated upon the matter in detail and sought views of the Mover, the Federal Secretary, Information and Broadcasting Division, the Press Council of Pakistan, the Managing Director PTVC and Bureau Chief, Daily Jang, Islamabad. The summary of the proceedings of the meetings on the subject matter is provided below.

5. The Mover Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak informed the Committee that The News had published expunged words for which the Information and Broadcasting Division should take necessary action to ensure that no such act is repeated again. He demanded that the said newspaper should tender apology on the same space to the Senate of Pakistan for publishing such words.

6. The Chairman Committee cited Rule 259(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012 that deals with the expunction of words from debates and said that the Rule bars from printing, publishing or mentioning of expunged words by media and any such action amounts to breach of privilege of the House. The Chairman Committee directed that Press Council of Pakistan should take action against publishing of expunged words in print media in future in the light of the said rule. He added that delaying mechanism can be utilized by the PTV while telecasting parliamentary debates live in order to ensure that expunged words do not go on air.

7. The Bureau Chief, Daily Jang, Islamabad apprised the Committee that the expunged words of the proceedings were mistakenly published due to noise during the House proceedings making reporters unable to take proper note of expunged words. He informed the Committee that similar news item was published in 14 other newspapers. He added publication of expunged proceedings was not a intentional on part of the Jang Group rather it was due to general misunderstanding. It was apprised that an apology for publishing the expunged proceedings has been published in Jang Newspaper at the front page and the Jang Group tenders unconditional apology to the Committee.

8. The MD PTV informed that at present renowned TV channels including BBC Parliament of Great Britain, C-Span of USA and Erektas TV of Ireland broadcast live proceedings of the Parliament without any delay. However, he added, ABC channel

of Australia telecasts delayed live sessions. The MD PTV apprised the Committee that a policy decision has to be taken by the government to initiate delay mechanism by the PTV.

9. The Secretary, Information and Broadcasting Division informed the Committee that the Ministry has issued letters to APNS, PBA and CPNE to direct all media outlets both in print and electronic media to abstain from reporting on expunged words in the House.

10. The Federal Minister of Information and Broadcasting Division Senator Shibli Faraz said that journalists are expected to follow the decorum and discipline that is required for covering the proceedings of the Parliament. He ensured the Committee that the Division will take preventive measures against publishing or airing expunged words.

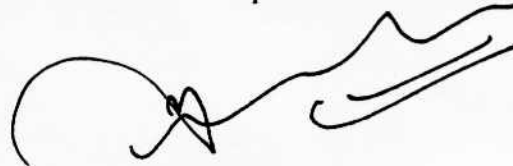
11. In view of the threadbare discussions, detailed briefings by the Ministry officials and perspective of the Mover, the Committee made following recommendations:

- i. The Information and Broadcasting Division shall conduct a workshop for the parliamentary reporters highlighting relevant rules, provisions and international practices;
- ii. The Information and Broadcasting Division shall take necessary action to employ a delay mechanism in PTV Parliament/News including procurement of delay machine in order to ensure that no expunged words are broadcasted on PTV while telecasting live parliamentary proceedings.
- iii. The Press Council of Pakistan may take action against publishing of expunged words in print media in the light of the Rule 259(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012 that deals with the expunction of words from debates;

12. The Committee with the consent of the Mover disposed of the matter for onward report to the House.



(ADNAN IBNE ASAD)
Secretary Committee



(SENATOR FAISAL JAVED)
Chairman Committee