

SENATE OF PAKISTAN
DAILY JOURNAL
(311TH SESSION)

Date and Day	31 st May, 2021 (Monday)
Commenced at	03:40 p.m.
Adjourned at	06:45 p.m.
Presided by	Chairman Senate
Attendance	80
Total Working Hours	03 hours and 05 minutes

Recitation from the Holy Quran.

LEAVE APPLICATIONS

Leave applications were read by the Chairman Senate.

BILLS INTRODUCED

1. Senator Mohsin Aziz, moved for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 [The Guardians and Wards (Amendment) Bill, 2021].

The Motion was put to the House and leave to introduce the bill was granted.

Senator Mohsin Aziz, introduced the Bill further to amend the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 [The Guardians and Wards (Amendment) Bill, 2021].

The Bill introduced and referred to Standing Committee concerned.

2. Senator Mian Raza Rabbani, to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan [The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2021] **(Amendment of Article 89)**.

The Motion was deferred.

3. Senator Seemee Ezdi, moved for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan [The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2021] **(Amendment of Article 59)**.

The Motion was put to the House and leave to introduce the bill was granted.

Senator Seemee Ezdi, introduced the Bill further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan [The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2021].

The Bill introduced and referred to Standing Committee concerned.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Zaheer Ud Din Babar Awan, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs, on a point of order, raised the question of interpretation of Rule 131 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012 read with Article 239 of the Constitution. His main argument was that the amendments to the Constitution and a simple legislation have different parameters i.e. to amend the Constitution, 2/3rd majority of the total membership of the House is required whereas the simple legislation can be made with majority of the members present and voting. He was of the view that in order to uphold the supremacy of the Constitution, the framers had given separate parameters for the constitution amendment and the simple legislation. He was of the view that when the Motions for consideration and passage of a Bill, seeking amendment to the Constitution, requires 2/3rd majority of the total membership of the House to be carried then there should be the requirement of 2/3rd majority of the total membership of the House for introduction of such Bills seeking amendment to the Constitution.

Chairman reserved his ruling on the Point of Order.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

1. Senator Fawzia Arshad on her behalf and behalf of Senator Seemee Ezdi, moved that the Bill further to amend the Islamabad Rent Restriction Ordinance, 2001 [The Islamabad Rent Restriction (Amendment) Bill, 2020], as passed by the National Assembly, be taken into consideration.

The Motion was put to the House and not opposed by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs thereafter, the Bill referred to Standing Committee concerned.

2. Senator Saadia Abbasi, moved that the Bill to make provisions for prohibition of corporal punishment against children [The Islamabad Capital Territory Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Bill, 2021], as passed by the National Assembly, be taken into consideration.

The Motion was put to the House and not opposed by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs thereafter, the Bill referred to Standing Committee concerned.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Senator Mohsin Aziz moved the following resolution:-

“This House strongly recommends that the Government should take necessary steps for operating PIA flights between Peshawar and Lahore on regular basis.”

The Resolution was not opposed and unanimously passed by the House.

2. Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman moved the following resolution:-

“The Government of Pakistan is cognizant that Pakistan like every other country is making continuous efforts to combat COVID-19 pandemic for which the healthcare workers were on the priority list to be vaccinated. However, the national and international trends have identified another key player in addition to the front-line workers that are directly exposed to the virus which are the police, rangers and administrative officers and staff. These officials that are on ground are helping the Government of Pakistan in maintaining order through enforcing lockdowns and making sure that the public follow the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) laid down in order to deal with the ongoing pandemic and are also providing assistance as well as information to the public. The officials aforementioned, are working closely to stem the outbreak, therefore, are as much exposed to COVID-19 as healthcare workers working in hospitals. As the House is aware numerous officials have lost their lives while safeguarding the public from the pandemic.

The House, therefore, urges the Government to prioritize the vaccination of aforesaid law enforcing personnel working on ground as they are working tirelessly to ensure SOPs, maintaining law and order and are therefore, put at risk in order to perform their duties.”

The Resolution was withdrawn by the Mover.

3. Senator Kamran Murtaza moved the following resolution:-

“This House urges upon the Government to take concrete steps for provision of internet services across the province of Balochistan.”

The Resolution was not opposed and unanimously passed by the House.

4. Senator Seemee Ezdi moved the following resolution:-

“Recognizing Pakistan's commitment in fulfilling Sustainable Development Goal-5 encompassing a continued commitment to achieve gender equality as state's responsibility to “ensure” women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life;

Cognizant of the fact that women constitute half of our population share but despite that their share in decision-making and senior positions level and leadership is small and shows no clear trend toward improvement;

This House recommends that the Government should initiate a review process through all Ministries in order to ascertain the following areas:

- a) To update the ratio of female officers at senior positions in all the Government entities and institutions;
- b) To identify the gaps in gender inequality at senior level positions indicating also the reasons of the lower number of female officers thereof;

This House further recommends that on the basis of the review action conducted by the relevant quarters the Government should take immediate measures to increase the number of women officers at decision making positions and ensure their meaningful representation at all levels in the Federal Government entities / institutions.”

Following members' spoke on the Resolution:

1. Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs
2. Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Leader of the Opposition
3. Senator Sadia Abbasi
4. Senator Molana Atta Ur Rehman
5. Senator Hidayat Ullah Khan
6. Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi

7. Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem, Leader of the House

The Resolution was not opposed and passed by the House.

5. Senator Mohsin Aziz moved the following resolution:-

“This House expresses its grave concerns over the improper, unjustified and inequitable credit/lending by the commercial banks in the small provinces of the country especially Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which are leading to deprivation, disparity and slow progress of industrialization and commercial activities in those provinces.

This House strongly demands the Government to take immediate and result oriented steps to ensure that the minimum credit/lending of the commercial banks to the private sector for establishing industry and commercial activities in the provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is at par with those provinces' total deposits in the banks.

This House also recommends the Government either to introduce a new legislation or amend the present laws/regulations in that regards.”

The Resolution was not opposed and unanimously passed by the House.

M O T I O N S

[Under Rule 218]

1. Senator Kamran Murtaza moved that the House may discuss the problems being faced by the common lot of the country due to recent exorbitant increase in the electricity tariff by the Government.

Following Members' spoke on the Motion:-

- i. Senator Kamran Murtaza
- ii. Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Leader of the Opposition
- iii. Senator Mushtaq Ahmed
- iv. Senator Ejaz Ahmad Chaudhary
- v. Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi
- vi. Senator Mohsin Aziz
- vii. Senator Faisal Javed
- viii. Senator Taj Haider
- ix. Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi
- x. Mr. Murad Saeed, Minister for Communications wound up the debate.

Senator Behramand Khan Tangi pointed out the absence of senior officers of the Power Division in the gallery to take notes of the points being raised by the members.

The Chairman directed that Secretary Power Division shall remain present in the House in next Session during business of Power Division, the Chair also directed that concerned division's Senior Officers shall remain Present during the disposal of the business of their respective Divisions.

The Motion was talked out.

2. Senator Mohsin Aziz moved that this House may discuss the report of Broadsheet Commission headed by Justice (R) Azmat Saeed Sheikh regarding investigation of the Broadsheet scandal.

Following Members' spoke on the Motion:-

- i. Senator Mohsin Aziz
- ii. Senator Afnan Ullah Khan
- iii. Senator Mushtaq Ahmad
- iv. Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui
- v. Senator Sadia Abbasi
- vi. Senator Shamim Afridi
- vii. Senator Faisal Javed
- viii. Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Leader of the Opposition
- ix. Senator Kamran Murtaza

Mirza Shahzad Akbar, Adviser on Accountability and Interior, wound up the debate.

The Motion was talked out.

Chairman directed that the copy of the Report of the Commission may be sent to the office of the Secretary who shall distribute the same to the Members for their perusal.

ZERO HOUR

Senator Fida Muhammad pointed out that the commercial banks/banking companies do not provide the banking services especially the lending services to private sector for establishing industry and other commercial activities, in the merged districts of erstwhile FATA.

After hearing the Member, the Hon'ble Chairman Senate directed to seek a detailed report in this regard from the State Bank of Pakistan and the Finance Division.

- At 06:45 p.m. the Chairman adjourned the proceedings of the House to meet again on Thursday, the 3rd June, 2021, at 03:30 p.m.
- The time of the session was later on changed to 10:00 a.m.

Islamabad,
the 31st of May, 2021.