

17

REPORT NO. 4/2022-23

SENATE OF PAKISTAN



REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES

ON

Proposed amendment in Rule 57 in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of
Business in the Senate, 2012 introduced by Senator Behramand Khan Tangi.
[The matter referred from the House on 1st August, 2022.]

PRESENTED BY

SENATOR MUHAMMAD TAHIR BIZINJO
CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE.

(Handwritten signature)

Subject: REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT IN RULE 57 IN THE RULES OF PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN THE SENATE, 2012 INTRODUCED BY SENATOR BEHRAMAND KHAN TANGI.

I, Senator Muhammad Tahir Khan Bizinjo, Chairman Senate Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges, have the honor to present report of the Committee on the subject Rules Amendment moved by Senator Behramand Khan Tangi.

2. The amendment was moved in the Senate sitting held on 1st August, 2022 which was referred by the House to the Committee for consideration and report.

3. The composition of the Committee is as under: -

Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizinjo	Chairman
Senator Mian Raza Rabbani	Member
Senator Prof. Sajid Mir	Member
Senator Dr. Muhammad Farogh Naseem	Member
Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui	Member
Senator Dr. Asif Kirmani	Member
Senator Manzoor Ahmed Khan Kakar	Member
Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah	Member
Senator Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti	Member
Senator Khalida Sikandar Mandhro	Member

4. The Committee considered the Privilege Motion in its meeting held on 24th August, 2022 which was attended by the following:-

1. Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizinjo	Chairman
2. Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui	Member
3. Senator Manzoor Ahmed Khan Kakar	Member
4. Senator Mian Raza Rabbani	Member
5. Senator Professor Sajid Mir	Member
6. Senator Khalida Sikandar Mandhro	Member
7. Senator Behramand Khan Tangi	Mover
8. Minister of State for Law and Justice	

2. The Mover briefed the objective of his proposed amendment. He was of the view that it has been observed that most of the time of question hour consumes in lengthy supplementary questions and a number of questions of the Members who had worked hard in drafting those questions remained unanswered. He was of the view that there should be only one supplementary question firstly by the Mover and if Mover does not want to ask any supplementary then by any other one member. He further objected upon the opposition of the amendment by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. He was of the view that rules amendment is an internal matter of the House which requires no suggestions from the Ministry.

3. Minister of State for Law and Justice vehemently opposed the amendment on the argument that if other members of the House have no right to ask supplementary questions then there would be no need to publish large number of booklets and circulate the same to all the members of the House. He was of the view that it would diminish the objective and productivity of question hour which is an important oversight tool.

4. Senator Mian Raza Rabbani stated that the Member has proposed the instant amendment with good intention which needs to be acknowledged, however, the proposed amendment is not practical and it would diminish the utility of question hour and interest of the house in question hour. He was of strong opinion that there is need to regulate the proceedings of question hour by the Chair. Chair should not allow the Ministers to make lengthy speeches and blame games on previous Governments during the reply of supplementary questions. He suggested that the Chair should not allow the Ministers and Members to go beyond the scope of questions and in this way the question hour can be utilized properly and full booklets can be disposed of. He further suggested that the Senate Secretariat and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs should also look into this issue while making rota days for the questions. The Secretariat should make the rota day while keeping in view the number of questions on any given day so that an average number of questions can be listed for any particular day. He referred back to a decision of House Business Advisory Committee when he was Chairman Senate of Pakistan when this issue came under discussion before HBAC but after lengthy discussion, the Committee could not agree on the limiting the number of supplementary questions and even then Committee was of the view that question hour need to be regulated by the Chair so that all listed questions can be asked and answered. He opposed the amendment.

5. Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui endorsed the point of view of Senator Mian Raza Rabbani and further stated that there is another issue regarding questions which needs to be looked into and that is of disallowing the very simple and relevant questions in the office by the Secretariat. He also opposed the amendment with the argument that this amendment will diminish the utility of question hour.

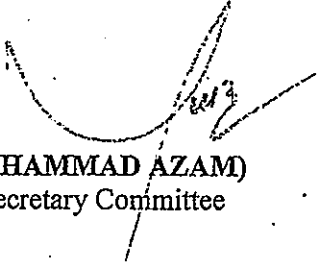
6. Senator Professor Sajid Mir pointed out that there is a provision in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012 that questions regarding Senate Secretariat cannot be asked in the House which is also unjustifiable as it is against the spirit of openness and right of access to information.



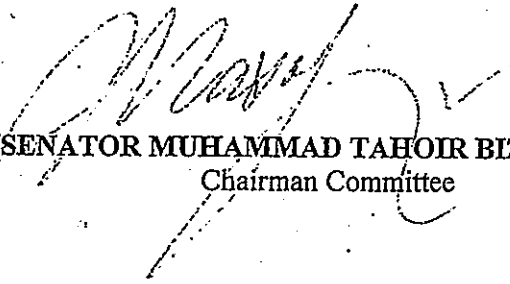
7. Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui endorsed the point raised by Senator Professor Sajid Mir and stated that Senate Secretariat is not a holy cow about whom question cannot be asked. He was of the view that such provisions are against the spirit of openness and transparency.

8. After detailed discussion, the Committee unanimously suggested that the Mover may withdraw his amendment which was acceded to by the Mover and withdrew his amendment.

9. In view of the above recommendation, the Committee also gave approval for presentation of report to the House. Hence, this report is presented to the House.



(MUHAMMAD AZAM)
Secretary Committee



(SENATOR MUHAMMAD TAHOIR BIZINJO)
Chairman Committee