SENATE OF PAKISTAN

DAILY JOURNAL

(289th SESSION)

Date and Day	31 st May, 2019 (Friday)
Commenced at	10:35 a.m.
Adjourned at	12:15 p.m.
Presided by	Chairman Senate
Attendance	66
Total Working Hours	1 hour 40 minutes

Recitation from the Holy Quran.

PANEL OF PRESIDING OFFICERS

- Senator Naseebullah Bazai
- Senator Faisal Javed
- Senator Kalsoom Perveen

MOTION [Under rule 263]

Senator Syed Shibli Faraz, Leader of the House, moved under rule 263 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012, that the requirement of rule 41 of the said Rules regarding Question Hour be dispensed with for the current session of the Senate.

The motion was put to the House and carried.

FATEHA

The House offered Fateha on the death of the following:

- Demise of a Federal Minister and former Chief Minister Sindh Mr. Ali Muhammad Mahar.
- Demise of father of Senator Fida Muhammad and Ex-Senator Nisar Muhammad.
- Demise of son of Mr. Qamar-uz-Zaman Kaira.
- FC soldier who was martyred in an attack on military check-post in North Waziristan.

LEAVE APPLICATIONS

Leave applications were read by the Chairman Senate.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES - PRESENTATION OF:

Senator Muhammad Ali Khan Saif on behalf of Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi, Chairman, Standing Committee on Law and Justice, presented reports of the Standing Committee on the following Bills:-

- the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (Omission of Clause (2) of Article 30), introduced by Senators Sirajul Haq and Mushtaq Ahmed, on 21st January, 2019:
- (ii) the Capital Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2019, introduced by Senator Abdul Rehman Malik, on 29th April, 2019; and
- (iii) the Islamabad High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

Senator Farooq Hamid Naek on behalf Senator Sassui Palijo, Chairperson, Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, presented reports of the Standing Committee on the following:-

- (i) on the subject matter of a Calling Attention Notice regarding report of the working group of the Election Commission of Pakistan on E-voting for overseas Pakistanis moved by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi on 5th October, 2018; and
- (ii) on a point of public importance raised by Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro on 10th October, 2018, regarding stoppage of funds for National Institute of Blood Diseases and for poor leukemia patients.

Senator Samina Saeed on behalf of Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, Chairperson, Standing Committee on Maritime Affairs, presented report of the Standing Committee on a point of public importance raised by Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar on 16th November, 2018, regarding non-payment of salaries / wages to the workers of Port Qasim Authority.

Senator Naseebullah Bazai on behalf of Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi, Chairman, Standing Committee on Housing and Works, presented report of the Standing Committee on the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority Bill, 2019.

Senator Muhammad Ali Khan Saif on behalf of Senator Fida Muhammad, Chairman, Standing Committee on Power, presented report of the Standing Committee on a point of public importance raised by Senator Lt. Gen. (R) Salahuddin Tirmizi on 18th December, 2018, regarding award of payment to the owners of land acquired for Suki Kinari Hydel Project.

MOTION (Under Rule 263)

Mr. Muhammad Shabbir Ali, Minister of State for Housing and Works, moved under rule 263 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012, that the requirements of sub-rule (2) of rule 99 of the said Rules be dispensed with in order to take into consideration the Bill to provide for establishment of Federal Government Employees Housing Authority [The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority Bill, 2019], as reported by the Standing Committee.

The Motion was put to the House and carried.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Mr. Muhammad Shabbir Ali, Minister of State for Housing and Works moved that the Bill to provide for establishment of Federal Government Employees Housing Authority [The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority Bill, 2019], as reported by the Standing Committee, be taken into consideration at once.

Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi opposed the Bill. The Following members expressed their opinion:

- 1. Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi
- 2. Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi
- 3. Senator Sherry Rehman
- 4. Senator Muhammad Azam Khan Swati, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs
- 5. Senator Farooq Hamid Naek
- 6. Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi
- 7. Senator Syed Shibli Faraz, Leader of the House
- 8. Senator Chaudhary Tanvir Khan
- 9. Senator Mushtaq Ahmed
- 10. Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak

Senator Syed Shibli Faraz, Leader of the House in view of the sense of the House and opinion of the Opposition suggested to defer further consideration of the Bill.

Thereafter, the Chairman Senate with the sense of the House deferred further consideration of the Bill.

Senator Muhammad Azam Khan Swati, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs on behalf of Senator Muhammad Farogh Naseem, Minister for Law and Justice moved that the Bill further to amend the Islamabad High Court Act, 2010 [The Islamabad High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2019], as reported by the Standing Committee, be taken into consideration at once.

Senator Sherry Rehman opposed the Bill. Thereafter, the following members also expressed their opinion on the Bill:

- 1. Senator Sherry Rehman
- 2. Senator Muhammad Azam Khan Swati, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs
- 3. Senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar
- 4. Senator Syed Shibli Faraz, Leader of the House
- 5. Senator Mohsin Aziz

Theater, the motion for consideration was put to the House which was rejected by the House.

Ms. Zubaida Jalal, Minister for Defence Production, moved that the Bill further to amend the Heavy Industries Taxila Board Act, 1997 [The Heavy Industries Taxila Board (Amendment) Bill, 2019], as passed by the National Assembly, be taken into consideration.

The Honourable Chairman Senate referred the Bill to the Standing Committee concerned.

POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE:

• Senator Faisal Javed raised the issue of collaboration between parliamentarians and judiciary to address the challenge of high pendency of cases in the courts.

Motion Under Rule 263

Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq, Leader of Opposition moved under rule 263 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012, that the requirement of rules 26, 29, 30, and 133 of the said Rules be dispensed with in order to move a Resolution.

Senator Syed Shibli Faraz, leader of the House expressed his reservation as he was not taken in confidence as per past practice.

The Motion was put to the House and carried. Thereafter, Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq, Leader of Opposition moved the following Resolution:

"This House expresses grave concern over the filling of references by the President against some honorable Judge of the Supreme and High Court in a secretive manner without even the knowledge of the concerned Judges. The filing of references has provoked serious criticism, caused serious split in the Bar and the resignation of Additional Attorney General. There is a lingering suspicion that the arbitrary and suspicious manner of filing Presidential reference is linked to some recent verdicts of the honourable Judges. These references are a direct attack on the independence of judiciary and are aimed at stifling the voices of reason, truth and justice in the highest judiciary.

This House expresses solidarity with the honourable Judges under siege, lawyers' elected representation and Bars Councils of the country.

This House calls upon the government to withdraw the references against them."

The Resolution was put to the House and passed by a majority.

At 12:15 p.m. the Chairman read the prorogation order of the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan whereby the Senate session was prorogued indefinitely.

Islamabad, the <u>31th May, 2019.</u>