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PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE NO. 6 REGARDING THE ISSUE OF BRINGING THE SALARIES OF MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB AT PAR WITH THE SALARIES OF MEMBERS IN SISTER ASSEMBLIES

The issue of bringing the salaries of Members of Provincial Assembly of the Punjab at par with the salaries of Members in sister Assemblies came under discussion during the sitting of the Assembly dated 20 February 2015 and 23 February 2015. A Special Committee No.6 was accordingly constituted on 23 February 2015 to consider the matter and report to the Assembly within a week. The Committee considered the issue in its meeting held on 25 and 26 February 2015.

2. The following were present:-

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| 1. | Mr Khalil Tahir Sindhu
Minister for Human Rights & Minorities Affairs
(attended on 26 February 2015) | Acting Convener |
| 2. | Mrs Azma Zahid Bukhari, MPA (W-318)/Chairperson
Standing Committee on Law & Parliamentary Affairs
(attended on 26 February 2015) | Member |
| 3. | Syed Abdul Aleem, MPA (PP-244) | Member |
| 4. | Ch Ghulam Murtaza, MPA (PP-283)
(attended on 26 February 2015) | Member |
| 5. | Dr Syed Waseem Akhtar, MPA (PP-271)
(attended on 25 February 2015) | Member |
| 6. | Sardar Shahabuddin Khan, MPA (PP-263) | Member |
| 7. | Mr Ehsan Riaz Fatyana, MPA (PP-58) | Member |
| 8. | Sardar Vickas Hasan Mokal, MPA (PP-180)
(attended on 25 February 2015) | Member |
| 9. | Mrs Ayesha Javed, MPA (W-317) | Member |
| 10. | Mrs Raheela Khadim Hussain, MPA (W-345) | Member |
| 11. | Ms Mary Gill, MPA (W-334) | Member |
| 12. | Mr Ramesh Singh Arora, MPA (NM-368)
(attended on 25 February 2015) | Co-opted Member |

3. Mr Ahmad Raza Sarwar, Special Secretary, Mr Kamran Rashid Khan, Additional Secretary (Budget), Government of the Punjab, Finance Department and Mr Mohsin Abbas Syed, Director, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department represented their Departments. Mr Faiz-ul-Basit, Additional Secretary (Committees), Provincial Assembly of the Punjab functioned as Secretary to the Committee.

4. Since Mian Mujtaba Shuja ur Rehman, Minister for Finance, Convener, Special Committee No.6, due to some other engagements, could not attend the meetings of the Committee, therefore, Syed Abdul Aleem, MPA (PP-244) on 25 February 2015 and Mr Khalil Tahir Sindhu, Minister for Human Rights & Minorities Affairs on 26 February 2015 were chosen to act as Convener.

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5. The Acting Convener informed the Committee that through the Punjab Revision of Emoluments of Public Representative Act 2006, a provision was inserted in all the laws pertaining to the salaries and allowances of Members and other public representatives which stated that "the salaries of the Public Representatives shall automatically be increased by the Government in proportion to the increase in the salary of civil servants". He pointed out that in the year 2008, when salary of the civil servants was increased; the same increase was also granted to the Public Representatives; however, in the subsequent years, whenever the salaries of civil servants were increased on account of adhoc relief allowance, the same relief was not granted to the public representatives which was a sheer violation of the above-said provision of law. All the other members of the Committee showed their grave concern over this lapse and vigorously urged that the omission may be rectified retrospectively.

6. The Committee asked the representatives of the Finance Department to apprise the Committee that why the increases in salary given to the civil servants after the year 2008 were not granted to the public representatives. The Additional Secretary (Budget), admitted that the amendment made through the Punjab Revision of Emoluments of Public Representative Act 2006 had provided for automatic increase in the salary of public representative by the Government in proportion to the increase in the salary of civil servants and when in the year 2008, the pay scales of the civil servants were revised; the salary of the Public Representatives was also revised. However, he admitted that in the subsequent years whenever the salaries of civil servants were increased on account of adhoc relief allowance, the relief was not granted to the Public Representatives and that this omission ought to be rectified retrospectively.

7. Mr Mohsin Abbas Syed, Director, Law & Parliamentary Affairs Department endorsed the views of the Finance Department stating that the emoluments of members of Punjab Assembly were at the lowest level as compared to the emoluments of their counterparts in other Provincial Assemblies of Pakistan and should be increased accordingly. He suggested that the Committee may recommend the increase in the emoluments of the Members on the pattern of any of the other sister Provincial Assembly and the Law Department would initiate legislation to give effect to this recommendation.

8. The Committee observed that the successive Adhoc Relief Allowances allowed to the civil servants were on the basis of their Basic Pay; hence the said Adhoc Relief Allowances ought to have been extended to the Public Representatives following the rationale of the law referred to above. The Committee directed the Finance Department to make necessary arrangement for the payment of all the Adhoc relief benefits retrospectively.

9. The Committee then discussed at length the comparative analysis of the emoluments of the Members in other sister assemblies and unanimously recommended that the emoluments of the public representatives of Punjab must also be revised accordingly.

10. Mr. Ehsan Riaz Fatyana, MPA/Member pointed out that when the issue of salaries of Members was raised in the House, the matter of non-implementation of the decisions of Finance Committee of the Assembly made in its meetings held on 24 & 25 April, 2012 was also raised simultaneously. He further apprised that, initially the Accountant General started implementing the decisions but afterwards, the Finance Department through an advice asked the Accountant General Punjab to withhold implementation of the said decisions. The Committee criticized the action taken by the Finance Department.

11. The Committee unanimously decided to recommend to the Assembly –

- (i) the salaries and allowances of the members be revised, through legislation, as proposed in the **annexure**;
- (ii) the Adhoc Relief Allowances allowed to the civil servants based on their Basic Pay may also be granted to the Public Representatives retrospectively;
- (iii) along side the members of the Assembly, the emoluments of Chief Minister, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Ministers, Leader of Opposition, Advisors, Special Assistants and Parliamentary Secretaries should also be revised on the same pattern through legislation; and
- (iv) the Finance Department should immediately withdraw the advice issued to the Accountant General Punjab regarding implementation of the decisions of Finance Committee made in its meetings held on 24 & 25 April 2012.

Lahore
26 February, 2015

KHALIL TAHIR SINDHU
Acting Convener
Special Committee No.6

Lahore
26 February, 2015


(RAI MUMTAZ HUSSAIN BABAR)
Secretary



PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB

PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE SALARIES OF THE MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB

S/N	Description	Present Rates	Proposed Rates
1.	Salary (p.m.)	Rs.12,000	Rs.30,000
2.	House Rent Allowance (p.m.)	Rs.10,000	Rs.20,000
3.	Office Maintenance Allowance (p.m.)	Rs.10,000	Rs.10,000
4.	Telephone Allowance (p.m.)	Rs.5,000	Rs.10,000
5.	Sumptuary Allowance (p.m.)	Rs.5,000	Rs.10,000
6.	Utility Allowance (p.m.)	Rs.3,000	Rs.4,500
7.	Additional Traveling Allowance (p.a.)	Rs.75,000	Rs.120,000
8.	Daily Allowance (per day) during Session & meeting	Rs.650	Rs.1,000
9.	Conveyance Allowance (per day) during Session & meeting	Rs.400	Rs.500
10.	TA (for Session & meeting) (Arr. & Dep.) per KM	Rs.5	Rs.15
11.	Accommodation Allowance (per day) during Session & meeting	Rs.1500	Rs.2,500
12.	Special Allowance to Chairmen Standing Committees (p.m.)	Rs.3,500	Rs.10,000
13.	Petrol & Car Maintenance Allowance (p.m.)	Rs.15,000	Rs.20,000