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PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB

INTERIM REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE NO.12 REGARDING "REVIEW OF RULES OF PROCEDURE OF PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB 1997 TO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS THEREIN INTER-ALIA TO STRENGTHEN THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB ON THE PATTERN OF THE PARLIAMENT OF PAKISTAN."

The Special Committee No.12 was notified vide No. PAP/Legs.I(22)/2018/2291 dated 22.07.2020, pursuant to the mandate granted by the House during the sitting held on 15.07.2020 having self-explanatory Terms of Reference (TORs) as envisaged at para-2 of notification *ibid*. The Committee reviewed "the Rules of Procedure of Provincial Assembly of the Punjab 1997" in its meetings held on 01, 07 and 21 October 2020 to propose amendments therein inter-alia to strengthen the Standing Committees of Provincial Assembly of the Punjab on the pattern of the Parliament of Pakistan.

2. The following were present:-

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| 1. | Mr Muhammad Basharat Raja
Minister for Law & Parliamentary Affairs | Convenor |
| 2. | Mr Sajid Ahmed Khan, MPA (PP-67),
(attended on 01 & 07 October 2020) | Member |
| 3. | Mian Shafi Muhammad, MPA (PP-258)
(attended on 01 & 07 October 2020) | Member |
| 4. | Nawab Zada Waseem Khan Badozai, MPA (PP-213) | Member |
| 5. | Mr Muhammad Moavia, MPA (PP-126)
(attended on 07 October 2020) | Member |
| 6. | Mr Rais Nabeel Ahmad, MPA (PP-265)
(attended on 21 October 2020) | Member |
| 7. | Ms Khadija Umer, (W-362) | Member |
| 8. | Ms Sumaira Ahmed, MPA (PP-306)
(attended on 01 & 07 October 2020) | Member |
| 9. | Mr Sami Ullah Khan, MPA (PP-144) | Member |
| 10. | Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, MPA (PP-176)
(attended on 01 & 07 October 2020) | Member |
| 11. | Mr Khalil Tahir Sindhu, MPA (NM-368)
(attended on 07 & 21 October 2020) | Member |

3. Mr Mohsin Bukhari, Additional Director, represented the Law & Parliamentary Affairs Department and Mr Inayat Ullah Lak, Director General (Parliamentary Affairs & Research), Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, functioned as Secretary to Committee.

4. The *briefing-cum-presentation* about the proposed amendments in "The Rules of Procedure of Provincial Assembly of the Punjab 1997" was submitted before the Committee aimed at strengthening of Standing Committees of the Assembly, on the analogy of sister Assemblies and Parliament of Pakistan as well as re-structuring and enhancing the effectiveness of the parliamentary tools of Zero Hour, Adjournment Motion, Resolutions, etc.

5. The Committee extensively deliberated upon the proposed amendments, and after having the feedback from the Members of Committee and viewpoints from Law & Parliamentary Affairs Department, unanimously recommended the proposed amendments, with a few exceptions/suggestions detailed in the subsequent paragraphs.

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6. Mr Sami Ullah Khan, MPA (PP-144) suggested that on the analogy of Library Committee and Finance Committee of the Assembly, the Convenorship of PACs and Committee on Privileges should also be specified in the Rules of Procedure. He also opposed the insertion of new rule regarding "Standing Orders" aimed at giving power to the Speaker to make procedural changes in the Rules of Procedure without intervention of Assembly on the analogy of Senate of Pakistan.

7. With regard to restructuring of parliamentary tool of "Zero Hour" on the analogy of Calling Attention Notices, Mr Sami Ullah Khan, MPA (PP-144) was of the view that instead of the proposed two days (Tuesday and Friday), three days should be allotted for this tool including the days of Calling Attention Notices (Monday and Thursday).

8. The Committee also discussed the strategy to provide the appropriate Human Resource to the Standing Committees and *it was unanimously recommended that as per analogy of the Chairmen of the Standing Committees in the Parliament of Pakistan, the necessary staff as mentioned in Section 13A (b) of the Members of Parliament (Salaries and Allowances) Act 1974, reproduced below should also be provided to the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab:*

Section 13A (b) ibid

"(b) the services of a Private Secretary in Basic Pay Scale 17, Stenographer in Basic Pay Scale 15, Driver in Basic Pay Scale 4 and one Naib Qasid in Basic Pay Scale 1."


9. The Committee further unanimously recommended that a dedicated pool of ample staff including Law Officers/Research Officers should also be provided to the Standing Committees and to establish a separate Legislative Support Department in the Assembly Secretariat to assist the legislators for their effective and efficient democratic role.

10. The Committee directed the Law & Parliamentary Affairs Department to prepare a consolidated draft of amendments in terms of rule 244A of the Rules of Procedure accordingly for passage by the Assembly.

Lahore:
21 October 2020


(MUHAMMAD BASHARAT RAJA)
Minister for Law & Parliamentary Affairs/
Convenor
Special Committee No.12

Lahore:
21 October 2020


(INAYAT ULLAH LAK)
Director General (PA & R)/
Secretary to Committee