

PARLIAMENT WATCH – BANGLADESH

2009



A Report on the Proceedings of the Ninth Parliament of Bangladesh

**(First, Second and Third Session)
January 2009 – November 2009**

**Irfath Ara Iva
SAHR Bangladesh**

Background & Objective:

Following national elections in Bangladesh held on 28th December 2008, the first session of the Ninth Parliament was convened on 25th January 2009.

The objectives of SAHR's Parliament Watch are to examine the legislations enacted for the implications for human rights of citizens, transparency and accountability of government, the parliamentary system and responsibilities of the executive in ensuring the rule of law and human rights.

Legislative process in the First session of the Ninth Parliament:

Between the dissolution of the Eighth Parliament and the commencement of the Ninth Parliament, the President promulgated 122 Ordinances in accordance with Article 93 of the Constitution. The Parliament constituted an expert group to examine the Ordinances and to recommend their ratification and enactment within 30 days of the formation of the new parliament, which was a constitutional obligation.

Notable among the Acts passed during the session were the following: ***the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2009; Money-laundering Prevention Act, 2009; Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009; Right to Information Act, 2009; Consumer Protection Act, 2009; and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2009.***

On the other hand, a number of ordinances which would have a vital effect on ensuring transparency, good governance and protecting human rights were kept pending, including the ***Anti-Corruption Commission (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2007; National Human Rights Commission Ordinance, 2007; Public Procurement Act (Amendment), 2007 and the Mobile Court Ordinance, 2007.***

The major opposition party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which had only 12% representation in Parliament remained absent for much of the session. Also, there was little participation by the public and not much information on legislation was made available through the media. In many countries the draft laws are published in the websites of the Parliament or Law Ministry and newspapers; people are informed through e-mails or electronic and print media; public opinion is sought at seminars, consultations and workshops; and on the basis of such constructive critiques, necessary amendments or revisions are made to the Bills in Parliament.

Legislative process in the Second session of the Ninth Parliament:

A total of 21 notices on the Government Bills were received and among them 20 Bills were placed in Parliament and one was pending. Three Money Bills were not sent to the Standing Committee. Besides, out of 28 Bills, including eight from the earlier session, a total 23 bills were passed in the Second session and were approved by the President. The remaining five Bills were examined by the Standing Committees and two reports on the relevant Bills were submitted and one was expected to be tabled in Parliament.

In the second session, a total of 47 hours and 43 minutes were spent on the discussion of the Budget, out of which 6 hours and 24 minutes were spent on the supplementary budget and 41 hours and 19 minutes on the general budget discussion. A total of 189 members from the Awami League, 23 from the BNP, two from the Workers Party, one from the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and one Independent member participated in the discussion.

The budget of Tk 1,14,000 crore was passed on 30th June after 47 hours of discussion, mainly by the treasury bench lawmakers in the absence of the main opposition BNP and its allies – Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and Bangladesh Jatiya Party. The opposition skipped the entire session over protests against discrimination in seating arrangements and the denial of entry of the opposition leader's car inside her cantonment home.

The participation of **women lawmakers** was significant throughout the session. They took part in the budget discussion, came up with a number of notices and submitted questions to the ministers on different issues. No discussion, however, took place on the proposal by the Indian Government for the **Tipaimukh** dam. Although the opposition parties protested on the streets, they did not participate in the discussions in Parliament. The Government acknowledged that it was planning to send a delegation to India to assess possible ecological and environmental effects on Bangladesh.

The Human Rights Commission Act was passed on 14th July 2009. It enlarged the Commission to seven members and widened its mandate to consider violations of human rights by security forces. The Parliament also passed the **International Crimes Tribunal (Amendment) Act, 2009** to prosecute individuals and groups who had committed crimes against humanity and war crimes during Bangladesh's 1971 war of liberation.

Notable among other Acts passed during the session are:

The Public Procurement (Amendment) Act, 2009; The Law and Order Disruption Offence (Speedy Trial) (Amendment) Act, 2009; The Public Servants (Marriage with Foreign Nationals) (Amendment) Act, 2009; The Public Servants (Dismissal on Conviction) (Amendment) Act, 2009; The National Human Rights Commission Act, 2009; The International Crimes (Tribunals) (Amendment) Act, 2009.

The submission of an investigation report on alleged corruption by the speaker of the Eighth Parliament, Jamiruddin Sircar, is also mentionable. It was the first ever parliamentary investigation against a speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad. The report showed that the former speaker had used public money for personal purposes during his seven-year term. It also pointed to corrupt practices by the top legislators of the Eighth Parliament, including the former deputy speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui and former chief whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain.

The session also witnessed the enhancement of perks and privileges for the lawmakers. For the first time they were given office rooms in the Parliament complex to facilitate their legislative responsibilities. They were also pledged support staff and offices in their respective constituencies. The Chairmen of the Parliamentary Standing Committees were given some facilities for enhancement of their status, including armed escorts for security and support staff.

The Parliamentary Standing Committees, constituted in the very first session of the current Parliament, were reconstituted to include lawmakers from the women reserved seats. The slot for the women Members of Parliament (MPs) were kept vacant when the committees were formed earlier. The Government also introduced a number of other bills, including the Insurance Monitoring Authority Bill, 2009 and the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

Legislative process in the Third session of the Ninth Parliament:

In the third session a total of eleven Acts were passed and eleven Bills awaited approval. The BNP joined in this session. It was stated that 236 participants took part in the discussion on the address of the President. Among them 204 were from the Awami League and 32 were from the BNP.

Notable among the Acts passed during the session were the following:

Local Government (Pouroshava) Act, 2009; Mobile Court Act, 2009; Local Government (City Corporation) Act, 2009; Local Government (Union Parishad) Act, 2009; The Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Act, 2009; Public Procurement (Second Amendment) Act, 2009; Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Act, 2009.

Bills Passed in the Ninth Parliament Promoting Human Rights (January, 2009 - November 2009)

Name of the Session	Total number of Bills	No of Acts promoting Human Rights	No of Bills relating to Privileges and benefits of the President and MPs	No of Finance /Tax related Bills	Other
1 st Session 25 January 2009 – 7 April 2009	32	14	1	9	8
2 nd Session (budget session) 4 June 2009 - 9 July 2009	23	6	-	6	11
3 rd Session 7 September 2009 - 5 November 2009	11	6	-	-	5

*****The list of Bills Passed in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd session are attached as Annex A and the list of significant Bills, especially related to Human Rights of 1st, 2nd and 3rd session, are attached as Annex B***

Ninth Parliament at a Glance (January 2009 – November 2009)

Name of the Session	Duration	Total working days of the session	Time Spent on the discussion of the President's Speech	Number of Bills passed	Remarks
First Session ¹	25 January 2009 – 7 April 2009	39 days (145 hours and 20 minutes)	28 hours and 21 minutes	32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was the first time in the history of Bangladesh where 48 Parliamentary Standing Committees were formed. Among the 48, 11 Committees were Parliament related and 37 were Ministry related. The Standing Committees were to be chaired by a MP instead of the Ministers
Second Session (budget session) ²	4 June 2009 – 9 July 2009	25 days (90 hours and 41 minutes)	47 hours and 43 minute discussion on the Budget	Among the 28 Government Bills 19 Bills were passed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Crimes Tribunal Act (Amendment), 2009 & The National Human Rights Commission Act, 2009 are the important bills among the 19 bills passed in the 2nd session. Total 189 from Awami League, 23 from the Nationalist Party, 2 from the Workers' Party, 1 from the Liberal Democratic Party and 1 independent member participated in the debate. Two notices of Private Bills were submitted.
Third Session ³	7 September, 2009 - 5 November 2009	22 days		11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Principal opposition party, the BNP, joined the parliament. 236 members participated in the discussion on the President's address. Among them 204 were from the Ruling party and 32 were from the main opposition party.

¹ Parliament Library Bulletin, Jan- April,2009, issue #57-60

² Parliament Library Bulletin, July- September,2009, issue #62

³ Parliament Library Bulletin, October- December,2009, issue #63

Updates on First, Second and Third Session, 2009

People's Right to Vote

The right to vote is a fundamental democratic right of citizens but the confrontational nature of politics in Bangladesh has made election management quite difficult. The Bangladesh Elections Commission (BEC) had to navigate carefully to secure the cooperation of major political parties. Therefore, a neutral and independent BEC is a universal demand for consolidating democratic processes in Bangladesh. The following laws were enacted in 2009 to strengthen the BEC.

In February, the ***Elections Commission Secretariat Act, 2009*** was passed.⁴ As per Article 118 (4) of the Constitution of Bangladesh “*The Elections Commission shall be independent in the exercise of its functions and subject only to this Constitution and any other law*”. As per the Constitution of Bangladesh (Article 119) the BEC is responsible for administering direct elections to the Parliament and at all levels of local government. The success of an election depends, to a large part, on the independence, capacity and impartiality of the Election Management Body of a particular country. The Act was expected to make the Elections Commission (EC) more transparent and accountable and to give it financial independence.

Accurate voters' list is one of the main preconditions to organize a free and fair election. On 24th February the Government passed the **Voter Listing Act, 2009** in order to incorporate all adult persons under the process. A computerized data bank was updated for easy access to the voter list. It included a provision for upgrading as well. Through this computerized voter list the false voters will be rejected.

On 24th February the **Representation of the People's (Amendment) Act, 2009** was passed in Parliament. It has made registration of political parties in Bangladesh subject to certain conditions. It includes a provision barring war criminals from contesting polls. However, the provision can be applied only after the war criminals are identified through a legal process.

Parliament, on 2nd November, amended the electoral laws to include a provision that political parties will lose registration if they fail to submit their permanent constitutions to the EC by 25th January 2010.⁵

The Bill for a second amendment to the **Representation of the People's Order (RPO)** was adopted by a voice vote. The law extends the deadline for another six months, but gives the EC the authority to cancel registration.

⁴ First session review of The Parliament, 2009

⁵ bdnews24.com 2 November, 2009

The Law Minister tabled the Bill in Parliament on 4th October 2009 with the second amendment regarding the cancellation of registration on failure to meet the new deadline. It amends the Article 90 D of the RPO, where the fresh deadline for submission of permanent party constitutions has been extended to 12 months from 6 months with the new provision that registrations will be nullified if the deadline is not met.

Speaker Abdul Hamid referred the bill to the Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs for review and recommendations within two days. The main opposition BNP on 12th October 2009 protested the provision at the Standing Committee meeting. According to the 1972 Representation of the People's Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2009, political parties must submit their permanent ratified constitutions within 12 months of the start of Parliament. A total of 39 political parties were registered with draft constitutions ahead of the December 2008 elections. Of them 33 parties, including the majority party the Awami League, completed their registration process by submitting their final constitutions to the EC by 24th July 2009.

The rest, including the main opposition BNP, appealed to the EC for extension of the deadline citing their inability to hold party councils and ratify their constitutions within the stipulated time. The Cabinet on 14th September endorsed the EC's recommendation to increase the deadline from 6 to 12 months. Several parties could not submit their final constitution after conducting party councils due to unavoidable reasons. Later, the parties appealed for extension to submit their ratified constitution. The EC then asked the Ministry to amend Article 90D proposing a six-month extension and cancellation of registration.⁶ In the 3rd session the Parliament passed ***the Representation of the People's (Second Amendment) Act, 2009***.

Corruption and Accountability

For ensuring accountability, people's participation and reducing corruption, the Parliament enacted some remarkable laws. A Bill drafted in 2002 was promulgated by the Caretaker Government as ***the Right to Information Ordinance, 2008***. The Parliament enacted ***the Right to Information Act, 2009*** on 5th April 2009. This was a step towards ensuring people's access to information and holding governments accountable and transparent. It is a fundamental right of every citizen as enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which was ratified by Bangladesh in 2000.

To protect the rights of consumers, ***The Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009*** was passed by the Parliament on 5th April 2009. Prior to passing the Act different organizations and civil society

⁶ bdnews24.com 2 November,2009

representatives created demand to protect their rights. The Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009 aimed at protecting the consumers by way of preventing defaults in weight, price and quality of purchase items.

The former Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2002 was incomplete and flawed. The definition of crime was not well defined. To resolve this problem an Ordinance was promulgated during the Caretaker Government. To meet the requirement for its ratification within 90 days of the commencement of Parliament, the **Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2009** was enacted in Parliament on 24th February 2009. If the Ordinance became enforced Bangladesh would be blacklisted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as a non-cooperating country. The enactment of such a law would enable Bangladesh to retrieve smuggled money.

On 16th June, **the Public Procurement (Amendment) Act, 2009** was passed⁷ with the opposition absent. Objection notices and amendment proposals from the opposition lawmakers were not raised in the House. Planning Minister Air Vice Marshal (retd.) A.K. Khandkar, who placed the Public Procurement (Amendment) Act, 2009 on 29th February 2009, incorporated the Standing Committee's recommendations. **The Public Procurement (second amendment) Bill, 2009** was passed in the Jatiya Sangsad on 1 November 2009 to ensure transparency and accountability in purchase of goods, works and services with public money. Planning Minister Air Vice Marshal (retd.) A.K. Khandakar presented the Bill in an amended form recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee.⁸ The House accepted some amendment proposals brought by the Treasury Bench member Abdul Matin Khasru. But independent lawmaker Mohammad Fazlul Azim's proposals for seeking public opinion on the Bill and then to send it to a Select Committee for amendment was rejected by voice votes.⁹ This law does not require a bidder's prior work experience as criteria for acceptance, and this was severely criticized as it allowed bids to be accepted from persons having no experience of public works or purchase of goods and services worth up to Tk 20 million. It was seen as leading to malpractice and nepotism in choosing the bidder.

On 5 April, 2009 **Sylhet Metropolitan City Police Act, 2009 & Barisal Metropolitan City Police Act, 2009** were adopted. The Parliament enacted two laws for forming a metropolitan police for divisional cities of Barisal and Sylhet as the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Ministry submitted its recommendations. Earlier tabling the bills, Home Minister Advocate Shahara Khatun said it became difficult on the part of the district police to maintain law and order in the two major cities in view of their increased population. She said with the enactment of the Barisal Metropolitan Police Act and Sylhet Metropolitan Police Act, two separate police forces would be formed with increased police strength and crimes, such as terrorism, extortion and mugging, could be effectively handled.

⁷ Bangladesh Sangshad Bulletin, Issue# 63, October- December,2009

⁸ Report of BSS

⁹ SB, Bangladesh, 4 November,2009

Opposition BNP lawmakers M.K. Anwar and Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, Syeda Asifa Ashrafi Papya brought several amendments to the bills, but the House rejected them as the home minister said the bills were returned to the House after scrutiny by the standing committee. She, however, acknowledged M.K..Anwar's amendment proposals as well thought out ones but ruled out his fears or concerns saying it was expected that the policemen would enforce the law with humanitarian consideration. The four other cities of Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna already have separate police forces.¹⁰

On 6th April the **Upazila Parishad (Amendment) Act, 2009** was passed. The Upazila Council (Amendment) Ordinance was widely critiqued because it made the authority of the Upazila Chairman of Local Government subservient to that of the MP representing the same constituency.

On 8th April the **Gram Sarkar (Repeal) Act, 2009** was passed. As per the Act, Gram Sarkar was the last tier of local Government; if it was enforced properly more people's participation could be ensured.

Rights of Women

On 5th March the Jatiya Sangsad passed **the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2009** ratifying the Citizenship (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 promulgated by the Caretaker Government to address the discrimination against women in transferring her right to nationality to her children.

Home Minister Shahara Khatun in tabling the Bill said, "The bill would remove gender discrimination which was there in The Citizenship Act, 1951". Earlier, children of Bangladeshi fathers and foreign mothers were able to obtain citizenship through their father, but Bangladeshi women married to foreign spouses were unable to pass on their citizenship to their children. Parliament ratified this law which had been promulgated by the Caretaker Government as growing numbers of Bangladeshi women were marrying foreigners.

Rights of Public Servants

The Public Servants (Marriage with Foreign Nationals) (Amendment) Act, 2009 - On 14 July 2009 Parliament passed the Act entitled The Public Servants (Marriage with Foreign Nationals) (Amendment) Act, 2009 to remove the restriction imposed by the Public Servants (Marriage with Foreign Nationals) Ordinance, 1976 on the marriage of Foreign Ministry personnel to foreign nationals. Marriage of Foreign Ministry officials with foreigners would be allowed after obtaining permission from the President.

¹⁰ <http://www.theindependent-bd.com/archive.details.php?nd=2009-04-01&nid=120681>

The Public Servants (Dismissal on Conviction) (Amendment) Act, 2009 - On 14th July the Public Servants (Dismissal on Conviction) (Amendment) Bill, 2009 was enacted to increase the tenure of punishment of Public Servants in case of Dismissal on Conviction.

Right to Fair Trial

On 14th July **the National Human Rights Commission Act, 2009** was enacted in Parliament. The Act provided for the Commission to investigate human rights violations perpetrated by the country's armed forces and police. It was vested with necessary judicial powers of redressal either in response to a petition or at its own discretion; it can also request reports from the government regarding the activities of the Bangladeshi security forces. The Commission will also have a regional presence, with district chapters that can receive allegations, conduct preliminary investigations and commission trials. On the same day, i.e. 14th July, **the International Crimes (Tribunals) (Amendment) Act, 2009** was adopted to prosecute the individuals and groups who had committed crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide during Bangladesh's 1971 war of liberation.

On 24th February **the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009** was adopted by Parliament to prevent, protect as well as to enforce penalties for crimes such as extortion, tender manipulation, vandalism and mugging etc. To comply with Article 93(2) of the Constitution **the Law and Order Disruption Offence (Speedy Trial) (Amendment) Act, 2009** was tabled for extending its term by two years to deal promptly with crimes like extortion, tender manipulation, vandalism and mugging. On 16th June **the Law and Order Disruption Offence (Speedy Trial) (Amendment) Act, 2009** was adopted by a voice vote without much discussion in the absence of the opposition members.

Independent member Fazlul Azim opposed the Act as a 'black law'. He said the ruling Awami League, while in opposition in 2002 had opposed a similar bill as 'black law'. He said it is deplorable that after assuming office the Awami League proposed to extend the duration of the law. Azim, who was a BNP lawmaker in 2002, said the purpose of the law had not been served as quick trials could not be held. Rather, he said, cases under this Act have been pending for years. He alleged that the party in power abuses this Act which becomes a means of harassment. Azim said there is no dearth of laws to deal with the crimes, but there is also no appropriate application of laws by the law enforcing agencies that are influenced by those in power. Home Minister Sahara Khatun argued that the extension of the law is required as 865 cases are under investigation and 1747 cases await disposal under the law. The Speedy Trial Act was first introduced in 2002 to try offences such as extortion, impediment to traffic movement, damaging vehicles, movable and immovable property, mugging, creating situation of fear and chaos, obstruction to buying-selling of tender documents, intimidation, etc. Since the enactment of the law, it has been extended after every two years.

Rights of Workers

The Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Act, 2009 was passed in the Jatiya Sangsad on 5 November 2009¹¹. State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Munnujan Sufian tabled the Bill on behalf of the Labour and Employment Minister Engineer Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain in an amended form as recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee. Earlier on 1 November 2009 Labour and Employment Minister Engineer Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain had tabled the Bill to limit the number of trade unions in Chittagong and Mongla Ports and dissolve the Dock Workers Management Board.

The Act proposes to constitute one trade union for the workers and employees of the port authorities and one trade union for port users, berth operators, ship handling operators and other port-related organizations. A proposal was also made to ensure transfer of money of the workers welfare fund. The draft Bill proposed that existing trade unions will be dissolved within six months after the Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Act becomes effective. A proposal for controlling the trade unions and canceling any trade unions by the government has also been made in the Act. Independent lawmaker Mohammad Fazlul Azim proposed surveying public opinion on the Bill and then to send it to a Standing Committee with the amendment proposals. Only one amendment was accepted and the rest were rejected by voice votes.

Ensuring Rule of Law

The Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs took an initiative to incorporate all Laws, Ordinances and the Orders of the Honourable President of Bangladesh, including all amendments up to 2007, into 38 volumes. To make it more accessible, people friendly and to update the electronic database the Parliament enacted **the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) (Amendment) Act, 2009** on 24 February 2009.

The Parliament enacted **the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2009** on 8th April to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act v of 1898) for purposes of implementing the independence of the judiciary which is required by Article 22 of the Constitution.

Remarkable Features of the First Year of the 9th Parliament

- A total of 48 Standing Committees were formed in the First Session. Chairpersons of seven Committees were selected from the opposition. It was reported that the committee members met 408 times. It was also reported that the Standing Committees on Privileges and Standing, on Rules of Procedures and on Petitions never met.

¹¹ BSS Report, November 5,2009

- To ensure transparency, the schedule of the Standing Committee meetings is displayed everyday. Also there is a proposal to introduce an Individual TV Channel to cover Parliament proceedings.
- Five Private Bills were waiting to be placed in the Second session. Ruling Party MP Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury submitted two Bills, one for protecting the eviction of the slum dwellers from public land and another on preventing custodial death and torture bill, 2009.
- Though there was a decision to elect the Deputy Speaker from the opposition, it did not take place.

Recommendations

To strengthen the Parliament and make it more effective in promoting accountable and transparent governance and in institutionalizing democracy in Bangladesh the following recommendations should be considered.

To Make Parliament More Effective

- The opposition should join Parliament by shunning the culture of boycotting and thus implementing the electoral pledge.
- A parliamentary calendar should be introduced.
- The total working duration of the Parliament sessions should be increased. The working hours should start in the morning instead of the afternoon and the number of work days should be increased.
- The provision for cancellation of parliamentary seat of MPs due to absence from sessions should be reduced to 30 consecutive days instead of the existing 90 days.
- The duration of question-answer time of the Prime Minister should be increased to one hour from the present 30 minutes. The opposition members' questions should be given priority.
- Public participation should be ensured in various phases of framing and reforming laws.
- MPs should maintain the code of conduct of the Parliament to avoid wasting valuable time.
- Measures should be taken for maintenance, storage and analysis of the records of parliamentary proceedings, including those on attendance, through an automated system.
- Regular attendance of the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament should be ensured. Without prior permission of the Speaker measures should be made for deducting the allowances of those members who are absent from the session.
- On an annual basis MPs should arrange a gathering to share the successes and failures of their respective working area, and should develop a mechanism for public hearing.
- Sufficient training should be organized for improving the skills and efficiency of the MPs.

Making the Parliamentary Committees More Effective

- All stipulated committees have been formed during the first session of the Ninth Parliament, which is undoubtedly an admirable achievement. This should be institutionalized by amending Rules of Procedure as well as developing the mechanism for monitoring. A separate committee may be formed after certain intervals of time for evaluating the performance of parliamentary committees.
- People's participation should be increased and the petition committee should be made active and effective.
- Representation of the opposition MPs in the Committees should be significantly increased and not necessarily bound by the proportion of their seats in Parliament.
- A Standing Committees on vulnerable communities like religious minorities, ethnic communities, indigenous and disabled people should be constituted for providing due attention to their specific needs and interests.

Participation of Women MPs

- The representation of women MPs in standing committees related to ministries should be increased.
- A special caucus should be formed with women MPs for mainstreaming gender sensitive deliberations in Parliament parallel with efforts to promote laws for elimination of discrimination against women. This committee can play a special role in advocating for a women-friendly budget.

Annex A: List of Bills passed in the Ninth Parliament (January 2009 – November 2009)

1st Session

1. Appropriation (Supplementary) (2006-2007 Fiscal Year) Act, 2009
2. Appropriation (2007-2008 Fiscal Year) Act, 2009
3. Appropriation (Supplementary) (2007-2008 Fiscal Year) Act, 2009
4. Appropriation (2008-2009 Fiscal Year) Act, 2009
5. Elections Commission Secretariat Act, 2009
6. Voter Listing Act, 2009
7. The President's (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Act, 2009
8. Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2002
9. Financial (2007-2008 Fiscal Year) Act, 2009
10. Financial (2008-2009 Fiscal Year) Act, 2009
11. Income Tax (Amendment) Act, 2009
12. The National Board of Revenue (Amendment) Act, 2009
13. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2009
14. The Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (Amendment) Act, 2009
15. The Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) (Amendment) Act, 2009
16. Anti Terrorism Act, 2009
17. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2009
18. The Bangladesh Flag Vessel (Protection) (Amendment) Act, 2009
19. Trademark Act, 2009
20. Right to Information Act, 2009
21. The Bangladesh Biman Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2009
22. Dhaha Electricity Distribution Authority Act, 2009
23. Sylhet Metropolitan City Police Act, 2009
24. Barisal Metropolitan City Police Act, 2009
25. The Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (Amendment) Act, 2009
26. Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009
27. Upazila Parishad (Amendment) Act, 2009
28. Gram Sarker (Repeal) Act, 2009
29. Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur Act, 2009
30. Bangladesh University of Professionals Act, 2009
31. Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project (Land) Act, 2009
32. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2009

2nd Session

1. Public Procurement (Amendment) Act, 2009
2. The Law and Order Disruption Offence (Speedy Trial) (Amendment) Act, 2009
3. Appropriation (Supplementary) Act, 2009
4. Money Act, 2009
5. Appropriation Act, 2009
6. Fertilizer (Management) (Amendment) Act, 2009
7. The National Agriculture Award Fund (Amendment) Act, 2009
8. Finance and Budget Management Bill of Government, 2009
9. Information and Communication Technology (Amendment) Act, 2009
10. The Public Servants (Marriage with Foreign Nationals) (Amendment) Act I, 2009
11. The Public Servants (Dismissal on Conviction) (Amendment) Act, 2009
12. Preservation of Terrestrial Facilities for Bangladesh Television Act, 2009
13. The Members of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (Term and Condition of Services) (Amendment) Act, 2009

14. The Islamic University (Amendment) Act, 2009
15. National University (Amendment) Act, 2009
16. Bangladesh Open University (Amendment) Act, 2009
17. Sher- e- Bangla Agriculture University (Amendment) Act, 2009
18. Jagannath University (Amendment) Act, 2009
19. National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam University (Amendment) Act, 2009
20. Sylhet Agriculture University (Amendment) Act, 2009
21. The National Human Rights Commission Act, 2009
22. Supreme Court Judges (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Act, 2009
23. The International Crimes (Tribunals) (Amendment) Act, 2009.

3rd session

1. Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (Amendment) Act, 2009
2. The Pesticides (Amendment) Act, 2009
3. Local Government (Pouroshava) Act, 2009
4. Mobile Court Act, 2009
5. Local Government (City Corporation) Act, 2009
6. Local Government (Union Parishad) Act, 2009
7. The Jute (Amendment) Act, 2009
8. Protection/Security bill for the Family Member of the Father of the Nation, 2009
9. The Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Act, 2009

10. Public Procurement (Second Amendment) Act, 2009
11. Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Act, 2009

Annex B: List of Significant Bills Promoting Human Rights passed in the Ninth Parliament (January 2009 – November 2009)

1st Session

1. Election Commission Secretariat Act, 2009
2. Voter List Formulation Act, 2009
3. Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2002
4. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2009
5. The Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration)(Amendment) Act, 2009
6. Anti Terrorism act, 2009
7. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2009
8. Right to Information Act, 2009
9. Sylhet Metropolitan City Police Act, 2009
10. Barisal Metropolitan City Police Act, 2009
11. Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009
12. Upazila Parishad (Amendment) Act, 2009
13. Gram Sarker (Repeal) Act, 2009
14. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2009

2nd Session

1. Public Procurement (Amendment) Act, 2009
2. The Law and Order Disruption Offence (Speedy Trial) (Amendment) Act, 2009
3. The Public Servants (Marriage with Foreign Nationals) (Amendment) Act, 2009
4. The Public Servants (Dismissal on Conviction) (Amendment) Act, 2009
5. The National Human Rights Commission Act, 2009
6. The International Crimes (Tribunals) (Amendment) Act, 2009.

3rd session

1. The Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Act, 2009
2. Public Procurement (Second Amendment) Act, 2009
3. Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Act, 2009