

PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY: LEGAL MECHANISMS AND EFFECTIVENESS

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ANNOTATION: This article is aimed at analyzing the legal mechanisms and effectiveness of parliamentary oversight. As an important part of the principle of separation of powers in democratic states, parliamentary oversight serves to control the activities of state bodies and protect public interests. The article examines the legal foundations of parliamentary oversight in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the methods of its implementation, and its level of effectiveness. Directions such as digitalization, improving deputies' qualifications, and expanding public participation are proposed to improve control mechanisms.

Keywords: Parliamentary oversight, Deputy inquiry, legal mechanisms, Parliamentary hearings, Ombudsman institution

The parliament is an integral part of democratic states, serving to apply the principle of separation of powers and to ensure that state bodies operate transparently and in accordance with the law and public interests. Through parliamentary oversight, the transparency, efficiency, and accountability of public administration increase. According to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and other regulatory documents, the Oliy Majlis (parliament) has the function of monitoring the activities of the executive branch, protecting national interests, and overseeing the implementation of laws and state decisions. This article analyzes the legal mechanisms of parliamentary oversight, their effectiveness, emerging problems, and solutions.

On May 17, 2022, the Institute for Legislative Problems and Parliamentary Research under the Oliy Majlis, in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's Uzbekistan Office, held an international conference on "Topical Issues of Introducing Effective Parliamentary Oversight Mechanisms: The Experience of Uzbekistan and Foreign Countries." In recent years, in the process of democratic reforms in line with global trends, the role and significance of parliament, particularly parliamentary oversight, in state and public life have increased. In particular, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Parliamentary Oversight," which regulates relations in the organization and implementation of parliamentary oversight, serves as a legal foundation for developing an effective system to enhance the supervisory function of parliament in the course of the New Uzbekistan and the "Third Renaissance." The law regulates objects, subjects, forms of oversight, the study of the implementation of legislative acts and law enforcement practices, monitoring the adoption of by-laws, and issues of openness and transparency, as well as the mechanisms for its implementation.

The legal basis for parliamentary oversight in Uzbekistan is determined by a number of legislative acts, including the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the laws "On the Oliy Majlis." According to Article 78 of the Constitution, the Oliy Majlis oversees the activities of the executive branch. The parliament checks the compliance of state bodies and officials with current legislation and strives to prevent violations of legal norms. At the same time, the Constitution emphasizes the independence of the Oliy Majlis in exercising its powers. The "Regulation on Committees and Commissions of the Oliy Majlis Chambers" clearly defines the forms and mechanisms of parliamentary oversight as well as the rights of deputies. Through these laws, deputies have the right to obtain reports from state bodies, monitor the



implementation of the state budget, submit inquiries, and exercise other forms of control. Moreover, the Law “On the Openness of Activities of Public Administration Bodies” also aims to strengthen parliamentary oversight and ensure the transparency of state bodies’ activities.

Parliamentary oversight is carried out in various forms. These forms and methods help ensure the separation of powers and the rule of law in democratic states.

1. Deputy inquiry

A deputy inquiry is one of the most common forms of parliamentary oversight. Deputies send inquiries about the activities of state bodies and receive relevant reports. Inquiries serve to provide the public with important information and increase the accountability of state bodies.

2. Parliamentary hearings

Through parliamentary hearings, deputies discuss the activities of state bodies. This process is necessary to hold government leaders, ministers, or other officials accountable. During hearings, problems are identified and solutions proposed.

3. Temporary commissions

The Oliy Majlis periodically establishes temporary commissions to examine specific areas of state activity in depth. These commissions operate in areas such as combating corruption, ensuring the effective use of the budget, or handling emergency situations.

4. Ombudsman institution

Within its powers, the Ombudsman reviews citizens’ complaints against state bodies. As part of parliamentary oversight, cooperation between the Ombudsman and the Oliy Majlis should be strengthened, which helps protect citizens’ rights.

5. Oversight of the state budget execution

In overseeing the execution of the state budget, the Accounts Chamber plays an important role. Through this body, the parliament seeks to ensure the proper and efficient use of budget funds.

From July 22 to 28, 2023, the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis carried out several activities in the areas of lawmaking, parliamentary oversight, international relations, and interparliamentary cooperation. On July 25, at the plenary session of the Legislative Chamber, two issues related to parliamentary oversight were discussed: — The report of Minister of Water Resources Sh. Khamrayev on “Measures Taken to Implement the Concept for the Development of the Water Management System of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020–2030” was heard and a relevant decision adopted; — The response of Minister of Youth Policy and Sports A. Ikramov to the parliamentary inquiry “On Organizing Mass Events in Sports and Physical Education Among Broad Segments of the Population, Including Persons with Disabilities” was reviewed, and an appropriate decision adopted.



There are several problems in increasing the effectiveness of parliamentary oversight. In some cases, the legal mechanisms established for parliamentary control do not function effectively. For example, deputy inquiries or hearing processes often take time, and their results are delayed. Accountability and sanction mechanisms for the results of parliamentary control are not yet fully developed. In addition, the practical impact of oversight results may be low. Public participation and openness of information during oversight processes are often limited. In many cases, parliamentary control remains an internal event, and the results do not reach the wider public. Some deputies lack sufficient qualifications in conducting parliamentary oversight, which reduces its effectiveness. Deputies' political affiliations or external influences on their decisions may also cause problems.

To make parliamentary oversight more effective, several proposals are put forward:

1. Digitalization of oversight mechanisms
Digitalization of control mechanisms can increase transparency and information exchange. Electronic reporting systems and online platforms can establish fast and effective communication between deputies and state bodies.

2. Strengthening analytical centers and expert services for deputies

It is necessary to establish strong analytical centers and expert services within the parliament. This helps deputies conduct high-quality analyses and make scientifically grounded decisions.

3. Expanding public and media participation

By making oversight processes open to the public and involving the media, the impact of parliamentary control can be enhanced. Expanding public participation ensures transparency and strengthens the accountability of state bodies.

4. Utilizing international experience

Drawing on international experience can help develop an effective model of parliamentary oversight. The systems of parliamentary control in countries such as the United Kingdom, Germany, and South Korea are well developed, and learning from their experience can be beneficial.

Parliamentary oversight is a key mechanism in ensuring the transparency and effectiveness of state power and social systems. In conclusion, parliamentary oversight is one of the key elements of the principle of separation of powers in democratic states and plays a crucial role in ensuring transparency and efficiency in public administration. Based on the Constitution and other legal regulations of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the parliament exercises its supervisory functions to regulate the activities of state bodies, verify compliance with laws, and protect the interests of citizens. The main forms of parliamentary oversight analyzed in the article — deputy inquiries, parliamentary hearings, temporary commissions, the Ombudsman institution, and control over budget execution — play an important role in increasing its effectiveness. However, several factors reduce the effectiveness of parliamentary control, such as weak implementation of legal mechanisms, insufficient accountability mechanisms, lack of openness of information, and limited public participation. By digitalizing control mechanisms, improving deputies' qualifications, expanding public and media involvement, and drawing on international experience, the effectiveness of parliamentary oversight can be enhanced. This will strengthen



openness and accountability in public administration and create fairer and more effective governance for citizens. Therefore, it is necessary to implement legal and institutional reforms to improve and enhance parliamentary oversight. This will not only ensure the effective functioning of the Uzbek state system but also strengthen its democratic foundations.

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