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Nation elects 16 women lawmakers

ISLAMABAD (Online): In 11th May polls, up till now, six women (three each from PML-N & PPP) have made it through to National Assembly and 10 to the four Provincial Assemblies i.e. 8 in Punjab, 1 each in Sindh & Balochistan whereas no women could win a general seat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

A total of 150 women had filed nomination papers at National level from 111 constituencies of which 60 were on party tickets. At Provincial levels 313 women filed nomination papers from 213 Constituencies of which 115 were party ticket holders.

Six female winners of 2008 National Assembly could find their way back for 2013, along with 4 from Provincial Assemblies. Interestingly 2 women each from Punjab (Ms. Sumera Malik & Ms. Ghulam Bibi Bharwana) and Sindh (Dr. Azra Afzal Peechu & Dr. Fahmida Mirza) have made a hat trick of winning their seats in National Assembly since 2002. Whereas, 2 women of 2008 Punjab Assembly (Ms. Nazia Raheel & Ms. Nagma Mushtaq) have been re-elected.

In the 2008, 16 women joined National Assembly and 10 at respective Provincial Assemblies on general seats.

Among the winners Ms. Sumaira Malik of NA-69 Khushab I, winning by a margin of 38,253, has bagged highest number of votes

118,108 with estimated voter turnout of 61.72 per cent in her constituency.

The lowest win has come on 83,916 Votes by Ms Faryal Talpur of NA-207 Larkana IV who won by a margin of 63,438 in a constituency where voter turnout was 54.24 per cent. The lowest winning margin is of 18,152 votes for Ms. Ghulam Bibi Bharwana from NA- 88 Jhang-Cum-Chinniot where the voter turnout was 64.54 per cent, which is highest among the six women winning constituencies.

Among the winners of Provincial Assemblies Ms. Saniya of PS-109 Karachi XXI, won by a margin of 44,054 votes besides bagging highest number of votes 53,926 casted with estimated voter turnout of 49.17 per cent for her constituency.

Ms. Rahat Jamali of PB-26 Jaffarbad II secured 12,521 votes, which is lowest number of vote taken among the winners. She won by a margin of 5,758 in a constituency where voter turnout is informed to be 40.25 per cent. While, the lowest winning margin is 1,859 votes of Ms. Rashida Yakoob from PP-78 Jhang II; where the voter turnout has been 51.93 per cent.

In 2002 and 2008 elections many came from politically elite backgrounds, and could benefit power and privilege; but largely due to education as eligibility criteria.