

[AS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

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BILL

further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2010.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Insertion of new Article in the Constitution.- In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, after Article 19A, the following new Article shall be inserted, namely:-

“19B. Right to Social Security.- (1) Every citizen shall have a right to social security which includes provision of such financial resources or basic necessities like food, clothing and health cover through a system of national social security service.

(2) The state shall take such steps which are necessary to enforce the provision of clause (1) of this Article, within a period of five years.

(3) In the absence of steps required under clause (2) a person, in need of necessary social security cover, may approach the Session Judge of district or the nearest Judicial Magistrate who shall refer his case to concerned authority for immediate relief without any delay.”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

A sizeable number of the people of Pakistan are living in abject poverty and are deprived of the basic necessities of life. In the daily life, we see all over the country, hundreds of citizens are losing their patience to fight with the poverty and uncountable sad incidents are taking place in the country.

Promotion of social justice and economic well-being of the people of Pakistan is a constitutional duty of the government but unfortunately successive governments have failed to ensure that all members of the society have at least necessary wherewithal for survival, particularly food and medicines. Hunger and starvation have created situations where some of the people have in desperation committed suicide and even taken lives of their kith and kin.

In above difficult circumstances citizens have no platform where they can raise their voice and get immediate relief because state has not made any mechanism for such relief.

In above amendment we propose the following steps:-

- (a) that every destitute in the society shall have a right to social security which includes provision of such financial resources or basic necessities like food, clothing and medicine through state agencies; and
- (b) to ensure the provision of these facilities a mechanism is being suggested in the form of judicial intervention to make the system self-enforcing.

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