

[AS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A

Bill

to amend the National Disaster Management Act, 2010

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the National Disaster Management Act, 2010 (XXIV of 2010), for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the National Disaster Management (Amendment) Act, 2017.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 4, Act XXIV of 2010.- In the National Disaster Management Act, 2010 (XXIV of 2010), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 4, in sub-section (1), for the words "as and when necessary" the words "at least once in a year" shall be substituted.

3. Amendment of section 6, Act XXIV of 2010.- In the said Act, in section 6, in sub-section (2),-

(i) in paragraph (f), the word "and" occurring at the end shall be omitted; and

(ii) in paragraph (g) for the full stop occurring at the end a semi colon ";" shall be substituted and thereafter the following new paragraphs shall be added, namely:-

"(h) to set up efforts for the rehabilitation of flood affectees' with special reference to women and children, especially the provision of shelter and livelihood support to be extended to landless rural women; and

(i) to ensure the restoration of livelihood through provision of agricultural inputs by introducing a comprehensive agriculture rehabilitation package."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Pakistan is a disaster prone country. "Unspeakable" miseries of the flood affectees were observed during the 2010 floods that were of highest magnitude and wrecked havoc in terms of men and material losses in parts of Sindh. Around 58 per cent people in Pakistan were food insecure adding that the floods 2011 further aggravated the situation to an alarming level. Unfortunately *red tapism* was one of the biggest hurdles to move things forward during the devastated floods. Even the available funds were not being utilized properly because of lack of accountability. There is an acute malnutrition among Pakistani children, which needs to be addressed without further delay.

The National Disaster Management Act, 2010 needs to be improved to make it more comprehensive and gender responsive with appropriate financial allocations and state-of-the-art institutional disaster management structure at all administrative levels. NDMA has to undergo a paradigm shift focusing on human rights based approach while central to it are women rights. In future there is a need to extend shelter, land and livelihood support solely to women, adding that gender mainstreaming should become the priority area of work for the NDMA.

We need to renew our commitment to step up our efforts for the rehabilitation of flood affectees with special reference to women and children. The government should re-distribute land to women, especially landless rural women to fulfil their constitutional right to have access, control and ownership of land. The government should ensure the restoration of livelihood through provision of agricultural inputs by introducing a comprehensive agriculture rehabilitation package.

Similarly the meetings of National Disaster Management Commission should be held at least once in a year in order to perform its important role at national, provincial and district policy level and forward its valuable recommendations in this regard. The meetings are vital in order to mainstream DRR (disaster risk reduction) at the local level and attempt to harmonize local government laws with the Disaster Management Act.

The Bill has been designed to achieve the aforementioned purpose.

SENATOR MIAN MUHAMMAD ATEEQ SHAIKH
Member-in-Charge