A

BILL

further to amend the Elections Act, 2017

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Elections Act, 2017 (XXXIII of 2017), for the purpose hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1.   Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Elections (Second Amendment) Act, 2019.

(2)   It shall come into force at once.

2.   Amendment of section 20, Act XXXIII of 2017.- In the Elections Act, 2017 (XXXIII of 2017), in section 20, after sub-section (2), the following new sub-section, shall be inserted, namely:-

> "(2A). For the purpose of delimiting constituencies, for the general seats of the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Tribal Areas two or more separate areas may be grouped into one constituency for their elections to be held in 2019 and bye-elections related thereto and thereafter this sub-section shall stand omitted.".

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Pursuant to 25th Constitutional Amendment, the Election Commission is obliged to conduct elections on 16 general seats of erstwhile FATA including Frontier Regions for the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa before 25th July, 2019. The Election Commission of Pakistan is facing great difficulty in delimiting the six ex-Frontier Regions, which have been annexed by the Provincial Government with other adjoining districts.

2.   Section 20 (2) of the Election Act, 2017 provides that the Election Commission may while delimiting constituencies for the general seats in the National Assembly for the Tribal Areas, group two or more separate areas into one constituency. In order to avert disenfranchisement of ex-Tribal areas including its non-contiguous Frontier Regions, the Commission suggested to insert identical provision for delimitation of general seats of newly allocated Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for erstwhile FATA.

3.   This Bill has been designed to achieve the aforesaid objectives.

MR. ALI MUHAMMAD KHAN
Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs