

[AS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A

BILL

further to amend the Members of Parliament (Salaries and Allowances) Act, 1974

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the provisions of the Members of Parliament (Salaries and Allowances) Act, 1974 (XXVII of 1974) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement. - (1) This Act may be called the Members of Parliament (Salaries and Allowances) (Amendment) Act, 2021.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 5, Act XXVII of 1974.- In the Members of Parliament (Salaries and Allowances) Act, 1974 (XXVII of 1974), hereinafter referred as the said Act, in section 5, for sub-section (1) the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"5. Travelling allowance. - (1) For every journey performed for the purpose of attending a session or a meeting of a committee or for attending to any other business connected with his duties as member from his usual place of residence to the place where the session or meeting is held or other business is transacted and for the return journey from such place to his usual place of residence a member shall be entitled to:

(a) An amount equal to one air-conditioned class fare, where the journey is performed by rail;

- (b) Travelling allowance equal to an amount of the actual rate of the highest available class not exceeding business class of return air fare from the airport nearest to his usual place of residence to the place where the Session or meeting is held irrespective of the fact that Pakistan International Airline (PIA) operates the flights with or without business class facility on said route:

Provided that Pakistan International Airline (PIA) will provide the actual or presumptive rate of the highest available class not exceeding business class of return air fare on said routes to National assembly and Senate Secretariats:

Provided further that where Pakistan International Airline (PIA) cannot provide actual or presumptive rate of the highest available class not exceeding business class of return air fare, a member shall be entitled to the previous actual rate of the highest available class not exceeding business class of return air fare on said route; and

- (c) A mileage allowance at the rate of twenty-five rupees per kilometer, where the journey or any part thereof is performed by road."

3. Amendment of section 10, Act XXVII of 1974.- (1) In the said Act, in section 10, for sub-section (2A), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(2A) A member shall, in addition to the vouchers referred to in sub-section (1) or as the case may be an amount of ninety thousand rupees in cash referred to in sub-section (2), be entitled to twenty-five open return air tickets of the highest available class not exceeding business class from the airport nearest or most viable to his constituency to Islamabad or equivalent value thereof in travel

vouchers. However, where the PIA does not operate a particular route(s), the member shall be entitled to receive vouchers amounting to Rs.1,500,000 (rupees one and a half million) or equivalent value thereof in cash.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) enacted the Members of Parliament (Salaries and Allowances) Act, 1974. Since then, amendments have been made to enhance salaries and allowances of the Members. But it has been felt that no substantial increase in allowances and other benefits of the Members has been made so far, especially to cater for increased travelling costs. Resultantly, the facilities provided to a Member are not sufficient to meet the expenditures incurred. Similarly, it disturbs the smooth working of the Parliament and its committees. The tickets with which a Member is provided is an explicit privilege duly covered in the Members of Parliament (Salaries and Allowances) Act, 1974. The suspension of the PIA flights on few sectors has given rise to this issue whereby a few Members have been deprived of their entitlement which in turn has created discrimination. This amendment is therefore required to address the same. Hence, it is desirable to amend the said Act.

This Bill is designed to achieve above objective.

**SENATOR ATTA-UR-REHMAN
SENATOR SARFRAZ AHMED BUGTI
MEMBERS-IN-CHARGE**