

[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, 2016.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Substitution of Article 28, of the Constitution.- In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for Article 28, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"28. Preservation of language, script and culture.- Subject to Article 251 the State shall take appropriate steps for the promotion of regional languages and ensure their protection, and any section of citizens having a distinct language, script or culture shall have the right to preserve and promote the same and subject to law, establish institutions for that purpose."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

It is the responsibility of all political powers and Government to transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, writing systems and literatures. Language is the most important element of life for preserving everything of historical importance e.g. local culture, art, traditions, poetry, stories, music, letters, theatrical performances, ceremonies, special events, rituals and family values. Promotion of regional languages is therefore important for preserving such vital components of local life.

2. As the major mother tongues of Pakistan which are Balochi, Balti, Brahvi, Punjabi, Pushto, Shina, Sindhi, Siraiki, these languages contain generations of wisdom e.g. child rearing skills, curing illnesses, acquiring food and settling disputes. If a language is lost, much of the knowledge it contains will also be lost. Therefore, the Government must implement successful programs to promote local languages and protect them from disappearing.

SENATOR KARIM AHMED KHAWAJA
Member-In-Charge