

As
[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A
BILL

further to amend the Pakistan Commissions of Inquiry Act, 2017

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Pakistan Commissions of Inquiry Act, 2017, (IX of 2017) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Pakistan Commissions of Inquiry (Amendment) Act, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 15, Act IX of 2017.- In the Pakistan Commissions of Inquiry Act, 2017 (IX of 2017), in section 15,-

(i) the existing section shall be numbered as sub-section (1);

(ii) for the second proviso, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"Provided further that the Commission may, in the public interest, recommend to the Federal Government that all or any part of the Final Report or interim report may not be made public, in such case the Federal Government shall present such report before the in-camera Session of the National Assembly and the senate within two weeks of the submission of the report to the Federal Government."

(iii) after sub-section (1) numbered as aforesaid, the following new sub-section (2), shall be added, namely:-

"(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the reports of all the previous commissions constituted under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1956 (VI of 1956-Repealed), and have been submitted to Federal Government with the recommendations that all or any part of the Final Report or interim report may not be made public or the Federal Government had decided that such reports shall not be made public, all such reports shall be presented before the in-camera session of the National Assembly and the Senate within the period of three months."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In order to ensure accountability, transparency and the right to information of the public the disclosure of the reports of Inquiry Commissions before the in-camera sessions of the National Assembly and the Senate will not only safeguard principles of transparency, accountability and the right to information but also maintain the secrecy and confidentiality of the reports on sensitive matters.

SENATOR MUHAMMAD JAVED ABBASI
Member-in-Charge