

As
[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A

BILL

further to amend the Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Act, 2020

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Act, 2020, (XV of 2020), for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery (Amendment) Act, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Substitution of section 9, Act XV of 2020.- In the Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Act, 2020 (XV of 2020), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, for section 9, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"9. Punishment under this Act.- An any police officer who does not comply with the provisions of section 8 of this Act in case of missing or abducted child or any other public officer who willfully or negligently delays or hinders in providing or processing the information in accordance with provisions under this Act, shall be punished according to the nature of crime with imprisonment of either description but not less than one year and a fine but not less than fifty thousand rupees."

3. Substitution of section 15, Act XV of 2020.- In the said Act, for section 15, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"15. Completion of trial.- Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the trial of offences against children under the age of eighteen, including but not limited to, sections 201, 292A, 292B, 302, 328A, 361, 362, 364, 364A, 365, 366A, 369, 369A, 372, 373, 375, 376, 377 and 377A of the Pakistan Penal Code and abetting thereof, shall be tried by the judges concerned and all such trials shall be concluded within a period of three months:

Provided that in case of death of the victim in result of rape or other cruelty, punishment not less than death penalty shall be given to the accused:

Provided further that nothing herein affect the trial of any offence being conducted, or to be conducted by the Anti-Terrorism Court established in 1987."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Bill was passed by Parliament. This Act is different in nature that it was brought in Parliament with the high aims to curb and control the child abuse incidents and as it is named as a Zainab Alert for recovery of missing, abducted, abused or kidnapped children in Pakistan. No one was and is against the mind and intention behind the bringing this Act. It was mentioned in statement of objects and reasons that: there is an urgent and pressing need to: (i) enact special laws to provide a speedy system of alerts, responses, recoveries, investigations, trials and rehabilitation to prevent and curb criminal activities against the children and (ii) to ensure harmonization and cohesion in the workings of the new agencies and institutions established for the protection of children and already existing mechanisms within this field.

SENATOR SIRAJUL HAQ
Member-in-Charge