

Introduced on 27-09-2021

~~{TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE}~~

**A
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, 2021.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Insertion of Article 25B in the Constitution.- In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, after Article 25A, following new Article shall be inserted, namely:-

"25B. Right to Nutrition and Food Security.- Every citizen shall have the right, and access, to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet dietary needs for normal growth and development, and an active and healthy life."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Economic and social rights as formulated and consolidated through the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948 are important human rights. Food security being included to ensuring the sufficient production of food, it also encompasses guaranteed access and availability of nutritious food, a characteristic that has been highlighted by international organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), world Food Programme (WFP), as well as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Pakistan acknowledges the importance of food and nutrition security, and is committed to eliminating malnutrition by joining Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement in 2013. Nutrition and food security as a national agenda will help Pakistan in achieving the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In wake of the importance of nutrition and food security highlighted and acknowledged through international covenants it is vital for Pakistan to ensure this as a fundamental right for its citizens. This amendment in the Constitution aims at recognizing nutrition and food security as a "Fundamental Right" by acknowledging the intersection of the right to food, and right to health, and creating intersectoral opportunities for the implementation of rights-based legislation, policies, and programs for the realization of these goals.

The Bill is designed to achieve the aforesaid objects.

**SENATOR SAADIA ABBASI
SENATOR MUSHAHID HUSSAIN SAYED
MEMBERS-IN-CHARGE**