

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A

Bill

to provide for management and regulation of Toshakhana.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for management and regulation of Toshakhana of the Government of Pakistan and for the matters connected therewith or ancillary thereto;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

1. Short title, extent, application, and commencement.- (1) This Act shall be called the *Toshakhana (Management and Regulation) Act, 2023*.

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) It shall apply to public office holders and private individuals as private members of an official delegation.

(4) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context, -

(a) "gift" includes non-perishable items received by public office holder or private member of an official delegation from a local or foreign dignitary or company other than the gift of cash given to employees in BPS-1 to BPS-4 as tips;

(b) "Government" means the Federal Government;

(c) "*Toshakhana*" means repository of gifts maintained by the division to which business of this Act stands allocated;

(d) "**public office holder**" means a person, his spouse or children who-

(i) is President of Pakistan or the Governor of a Province;

(ii) is the Prime Minister, Chairman Senate, Speaker of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairman Senate, Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Federal Minister, Minister of State, Attorney General, Advocate General and such other law officers appointed under the Central Law Officers Ordinance, 1970 (VII of 1970), Federal Prosecutor General and such other law officers, Adviser to the Prime Minister, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Federal Parliamentary Secretary, Member of Parliament, Auditor General, Political Secretary, and a person who holds a post or office with the rank or status of a Federal Minister or Minister of State;

(iii) is the Chief Minister, Speaker Provincial Assembly, Deputy Speaker Provincial Assembly, Provincial Minister, Adviser to the Chief Minister, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister, Provincial

Parliamentary Secretary, Member of the Provincial Assembly, Advocate General, Provincial Prosecutor General or such other law officers, Political Secretary and a person who holds a post or office with the rank or status of a Provincial Minister;

- (iv) any person, who draws any or some benefits from public exchequer in any scale or grade or in any office or position and shall include all, whether elected, nominated, selected or under any contractual obligations where public exchequer is wholly or partially involved. It shall include any person who holds office in any service of Pakistan or renders any service in connection with the affairs of the Federal, Provincial, or the local Governments or in the management of corporations, banks, or any financial institution, firms or any other institutions or organizations established, controlled or administered by the Federal or Provincial Governments, as the case may be. It includes members of the armed forces of Pakistan and in the judiciary;

(e) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules; and

(f) "rules" means rules made under this Act.

3. **Acceptance of gift and its deposit in Toshakhana.**- Gift received by public office holder or private person as part of official delegation shall be deposited in the Toshakhana of Government of Pakistan within such time limit and manner as may be prescribed.

4. **Management and regulation of Toshakhana.**- (1) The division to which business of this Act stands allocated shall be responsible for management and regulation of Toshakhana and to take measures in the prescribed manner.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the information in respect of Toshakhana shall be open to inspection subject to such conditions, limitations and restrictions as may be prescribed.

5. **Offence.**- Whoever contravenes or attempts to contravene or abets in contravention of section 3 or any rules made thereunder shall be punishable with fine equal to five times the assessed market value of the gift.

6. **Power to make rules.**- The Federal Government shall, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out purposes of this Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Toshakhana is centrally maintained by the Cabinet Division as assigned as per Rule of Business, 1973, and its objective is to manage and regulate gifts received by public office holders during the course of their official duty. In order to plug statutory loopholes in the existing procedure, this bill has been introduced.

2. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

Sd/-
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