[AS PASSED BY THE SENATE]

A

Bill

further to amend the Centres of Excellence Act, 1974

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Centres of Excellence Act, 1974 (XXIV of 1974), in the manner and for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:

1. **Short title and commencement.**- (1) This Act shall be called the Centres of Excellence (Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 2, Act XXIV of 1974.**- In the Centres of Excellence Act, 1974 (XXIV of 1974), hereinafter referred to as "the said Act", in section 2;-

(i) for paragraph (c), the following shall be substituted, namely; -

"(c)"Commission" means the Higher Education Commission established or to be established under the law providing for the establishment of such Commission;"

(ii) after paragraph (d), the following new paragraph (da) shall be inserted, namely; -

"(da) "Division concerned" means the Division to which the business of the Act stands allocated;"

3. **Amendment of section 4, Act XXIV of 1974.**—In the said Act, in section 4, in clause (f), for the words "Federal Government", the words "division concerned" shall be substituted.

4. **Amendment of section 5, Act XXIV of 1974.**—In the said Act, in sub-section 5, in sub-section (1), in clause (f),-

(a) After the words "experts", the comma and words ",out of which one shall be female" shall be inserted; and

(b) for the words "Federal Government", the words "Division concerned" shall be substituted.

5. **Amendment of section 6, Act XXIV of 1974.**—In the said Act, in section 6,-

(a) in sub-section (1), for the words "Federal Government", wherever occurring, the words "Prime Minister" shall be substituted; and

(b) in sub-section (4), for the word "Chairman", the words "Prime Minister" shall be substituted.

6. **Amendment of section 7, Act XXIV of 1974.-** In the said Act, in section 7, -in sub-section (1), in clause (c) after the word "experts", the comma and words ",out of which one shall be female" shall be inserted.

7. **Amendment of section 9, Act XXIV of 1974.**—In the said Act, in section 9,-

(a) in sub-section (3), for the words "Federal Government", the words "Division concerned" shall be substituted; and

(b) in sub-section (4), for the word "Federal Government", wherever occurring, the words "Division concerned" shall be substituted.

8. **Amendment of section 11, Act XXIV of 1974.-** In the said Act, in section 11, for the word "Commission", the words "Division concerned" shall be substituted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECT AND REASONS

Cabinet Division communicated Honorable Prime Minister's directives to ensure "33% women representations in all Federal Boards, Statutory Bodies, Public Sector Organizations and Allied Committees under Federal Government (Task No. T16367C)". In order to ensure the compliance of the above, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has started process of making necessary amendments in the existing laws of the autonomous organizations under the ambit of the Ministry.

2. There is a dire need to bring adequate amendments in the existing Centre of Excellence Act No, XXIV of 1974. The Bill seeks to achieve the aforesaid object.

-Sd-
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Federal Minister for
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