

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

Bill

Further to amend the Women in Distress and Detention Fund Act, 1996

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Women in Distress and Detention Fund Act, 1996 (XV of 1996), for the purposes hereinafter appearing:

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.-** (1) This Act may be called the Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act, 2011.
(2) It shall come into force at once.
2. **Amendment of section 6, Act XV of 1996.-** In the Women in Distress and Detention Fund Act, 1996 (XV of 1996), in section 6,
 - (a) in sub-section (1),
 - (i) in clause (i), for the words and comma "Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs" the words "Human Rights" shall be substituted;
 - (ii) in clause (ii), for the words and comma "Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs" the words "Human Rights" shall be substituted; and
 - (iii) in clause (viii), for the words and comma "Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs" the words and comma "Human Rights," shall be substituted; and
 - (b) in sub-section (7), for the words and comma "Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs" the words "Human Rights" shall be substituted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Women in Distress and Detention Fund was established under an Act of Parliament (XV of 1996). The aim/objectives of this Fund is to provide financial and legal assistance to the women languishing in the jails on account of different allegations and those who are faced with extreme hardship.

2. Human Rights Wing, Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights Islamabad was administering the fund under the Act of Parliament. Now, Ministry of Human Rights has been established as separate entity w.e.f 3rd November, 2008 and the subject fund was transferred to Ministry of Human Rights.
3. It is pointed out that this Ministry was not in a position to operate the fund without necessary amendments in Women in Distress and Detention Fund Act, 1996 (XV of 1996). The Law and Justice Division got the Ordinance promulgated for redressal of issue and filling of the vacuum.
4. The functionalization of this fund is beneficial for all classes of women throughout the country.
5. The Bill has been framed/designed to achieve the aforesaid aims/objectives.

SYED MUMTAZ ALAM GILLANI

Minister for Human Rights
Member-in-charge