

A

Bill

further to amend the Women in Distress and Detention Fund Act, 1996 in its application to Islamabad Capital Territory

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, 2019.

(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, hereinafter referred to as the said act, in section 6, after sub-section 7, the following new sub-section shall be added, namely:

“(8) The Board shall hold at least two meetings in a year.”

3. Amendment of Section 7, Act XV of 1996.— In the said act, in Section 7, after paragraph (d), the following new paragraph shall be added, namely:

“(e) Maintain an updated data of women in distress and detention mentioning the year-wise details of those women who are the beneficiaries of this Fund.”

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Women in Distress and Detention Fund was established under the Women in Distress and detention Fund Act, 1996 (XV of 1996). The objects of this Fund are to provide financial and legal assistance to the women languishing in jails on account of different allegations and those who face extreme hardships.

The purpose of the first amendment is to streamline the functioning of the board by holding regular meetings of the Board in a year. Since promulgation of the Act, composition of the board of governors, as stipulated in Section 6 of the Act, presented issues of meeting necessary quorum on account of members official engagements. This issue kept the fund non-operational over the years and hence deserving people eligible to benefit from fund remained deprived.

In order to organize the disbursements out of the fund by updating/maintaining the record of women in detention all over the country. Without upgrading the relevant record it's difficult to assess the number of beneficiaries and to ensure transparency in disbursement as well.

The Bill seeks to achieve the aforesaid objectives.

Sd/-
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