

A

BILL

to provide for the safety and standards of food and for establishment of the Islamabad Pure Food Authority

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the safety and standards of food and to establish the Islamabad the Islamabad Pure Food Authority so that to protect health of the people and for matters connected therewith and ancillary thereto;

It is enacted as follows: -

**CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY**

1. Short title, extent and commencement:- (1) This Act may be called the Islamabad Pure Food Authority Act, 2020.

(2) It extends to the Islamabad Capital Territory.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

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

(a) "Adulterated Food" means the food, -

(i) Which is not of the nature, substance or quality which it purports or is represented to be; or

(ii) Which contains any such extraneous substance as may adversely affect the nature, substance or quality of the food, or

(iii) Which is processed, mixed, coloured, powdered or coated with any other substance in contravention of the rules or the regulations' or

(iv) Any constituent of which has been wholly or in art abstracted so as to affect injuriously its nature, substance or quality; or

(v) Which contains any poisonous or other ingredient that may render it injurious to human health; or

(vi) The quality or purity of which does not conform to the prescribed standards' or

(vii) Which has been prepared, packed or kept under unhygienic and insanitary conditions; or

(viii) Which is contaminated or has become injurious to health;

- (b) "Advertisement" means any publicity, representation or pronouncement made by any means for purposes of promoting the sale or disposal of any food;
- (c) "Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the Food Authority;
- (d) "consumer" means a person who receives food against a consideration or otherwise and includes an end user of the food'
- (e) **"Director Food Authority" means Officer appointed or nominated by the Competent Authority for the purposes of this Act;**
- (f) "fee" means the amount prescribed by the rules;
- (g) "food" means anything used as food or drink for human consumption other than drugs, and includes,-
 - (i) any substance which is intended for use in the preparation of food;
 - (ii) any flavouring agent or condiment;
 - (iii) any colouring matter intended for use in food;
 - (iv) chewing gum, confectionary and other products of like nature'
 - (v) water in any form including ice, intended for human consumption or for use in the composition or preparation of food; and
 - (vi) any other thing prescribed as food'

Explanation-I.- A thing shall not cease to be food by reason that it is also capable of being used as drugs.

Explanation-II.- In this clause, the word "drugs" has the same meaning as is assigned to it in the Drugs Act 1976 (XXXI of 1976).

- (h) "food additive" includes any substance not normally consumed as food by itself or used as a typical ingredient of food but the addition of which is food affects the characteristic of the food'
- (i) "Food Authority" means the Islamabad Pure Food Authority established under the Act'

- (j) "food business" means any undertaking, whether or not for profit, carrying out any of the activities related to any stage of manufacturing, processing, packaging storage, transportation, distribution of food, import, export and includes food services, catering services, sale of food or food ingredients;
- (k) "food laboratory" means any food laboratory or institute established or recognized by the Food Authority;
- (l) "food operator" means a person who manufactures for sale, transports, stores, sells, distributes, imports or exports food;
- (m) "Food Safety Officer" means a Food Safety Officer appointed under the Act;
- (n) "Government" means the Islamabad Capital Territory Administration;
- (o) "import" means bringing into the Islamabad Capital Territory any article of food by any means including land, river, canal or air;
- (p) "ingredient" means any substance, including a food additive used in processing, manufacturing, preparation etc of food to present its final food product either in modified form or otherwise;
- (q) "label" includes any tag, brand, mark, pictorial or other descriptive matter, written, printed, stenciled, marked, painted, embossed or impressed on, or attached to or included in, belonging to, or accompanying any food;
- (r) "licence" means a licence granted under the Act or the rules or the regulations;
- (s) "member" means a member of the Food Authority;
- (t) "misbranded food" means the food,-
 - (i) which is an imitation of or resembles another food, in a manner that it is likely to deceive the consumer; or
 - (ii) which is so coloured, flavoured, coated, powered or polished as to conceal the true nature of the food; or
 - (iii) which is contained in any package which, or the label of which, bears any statement, design or device regarding the ingredients or the substances contained in the food, that is false or misleading;
- (u) "package" includes anything in which food is wholly or partly cased, covered, contained, placed or otherwise packed in any manner and any such other receptacle of any kind whether opened or closed;

- (v) "premises" include any shop, stall, hotel, restaurant, airline services, canteens, place, vehicle, building or tent or any other structure and any adjoining land used in connection with it and any vehicle, conveyance, vessel or aircraft where any food is sold or manufactured or stored for sale;
- (w) "prescribed" means prescribed by the rules or the regulations;
- (x) "public analyst" means a public analyst appointed under the Act;
- (y) "regulations" means regulations made under this Act;
- (z) "rules" means rules made under this Act;
- (za) "safe food" means an article of food which is not unsafe;
- (zb) "Scientific Panel" means the Scientific Panel constituted under the Act;
- (zc) "standard" in relation to any article of food, means the prescribed standard and includes the standard notified by the Food Authority; and
- (zd) "unsafe food" means the food whose nature, substance or quality is so affected by any means as to render it injurious to human health.

CHAPTER II ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOD AUTHORITY

3. Establishment of the Food Authority.- (1) The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, establish the Islamabad Food Authority for purposes of this Act.

(2) The Food Authority shall be a body corporate, having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power to enter into contract, acquire or dispose of property, and may, by its name, sue or be sued.

4. Composition of the Food Authority.- (1) The Food Authority shall consist of a Board comprising a Chairperson and the following members: -

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| (a) Chief Commissioner ICT; | Chairperson |
| (b) Representative of the Ministry of Interior not below BS-19; | Member |
| (c) Representative of the, Ministry of Health Services Regulation and Coordination not below BS-19; | Member |
| (d) Representative of the, Ministry of Food Security and Research not below BS-19; | Member |
| (e) Two members of the National Assembly from the Islamabad Capital Territory to be nominated by the Government; | Member |
| (f) Two food technologists or scientists to be nominated by the Government; | Member |
| (g) One representative of the Islamabad Chambers of Commerce & Industry to be nominated by the Government; | Member |
| (h) One representative of Food Industries Islamabad to be nominated by the ICT Administration; | Member |
| (i) One representative of Food operators to be nominated by the Government; | Member |
| (j) Two representatives of consumers; | Member |
| (k) Director Food Authority; | Member/Secretary |

(2) The members other than the *ex-officio* members shall be appointed in the manner and term as prescribed.

(3) The general directions and superintendence of the affairs of the Authority shall vest in Board who with the assistance of Director Food Authority, shall discharge its functions under the guidance and instructions of policy, matters by the Federal Government.

(4) The Board may, with the prior approval of the Chairperson, co-opt any other person as a member.

(5) The Chairperson and members, other than *ex-officio* members, shall be appointed in such manner as to ensure the highest standards of professional competence and experience.

(6) A meeting of the Board shall be held in the manner provided by the regulations, and until so provided, as may be determined by the Board.

(7) The Secretary of the Board shall, on the direction of the Chairperson, call a meeting of the Board.

(8) The Board shall meet at least thrice in a year.

(9) The Chairperson, and in his / her absence, any other member elected by the members present at a meeting, shall preside at the meeting of the Board.

(10) The quorum for a meeting shall be one third of the total members the fraction being counted as one.

(11) No act or proceedings of the Board shall be questioned or invalidated merely on the ground of existence of any vacancy or defect in the constitution of the Board.

5. Terms and conditions of Chairperson and members.- (1) The Chairperson and the members, other than *ex-officio* members, shall hold office for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(2) A person shall not be appointed as Chairperson or a member, other than *ex-officio* member, for more than two terms, whether consecutive or otherwise.

(3) The Government shall prescribe the salary and allowances payable to, and the other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson.

(4) The Chairperson or a member, other than an *ex-officio* member, may resign from his office by serving one month's notice in writing to the Government.

6. Removal of Chairperson and members.- (1) The Government may remove from office, the Chairperson or a member, other than an *ex-officio* member, if he,-

- (a) has been adjudged an undischarged insolvent; or
- (b) has been convicted of an offence which involves moral turpitude; or
- (c) has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as the Chairperson or the member; or
- (d) has abused his position and rendered his continuance in the office prejudicial to public interest.

(2) The Chairperson or a member shall not be removed from office except after affording him a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

7. Powers and functions of the Food Authority.- (1) The Food Authority shall regulate and monitor the food business in order to ensure provision of safe food.

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (1), the Food Authority may,-

- (a) formulate standards, procedures, processes and guidelines in relation to any aspect of food including food business, food labeling, food additive, and specify appropriate enforcement systems;
- (b) specify procedures and guidelines for setting up and accreditation of food laboratories;
- (c) formulate method of sampling, analysis of samples and reporting of results;
- (d) specify licensing, prohibition orders, recall procedures, improvement notices or prosecution;
- (e) determine terms and conditions of service of its employees;
- (f) provide scientific advice and technical support to the Government in matters relating to food;
- (g) collect and analyze relevant scientific and technical data relating to food;
- (h) establish a system of network of food operators and consumers to facilitate food safety and quality control;
- (i) organize training programs in food safety and standards;
- (j) promote general awareness as to food safety and standards;
- (k) levy fee for registration, licensing and other services;
- (l) certify food for export;
- (m) perform any other prescribed function; and
- (n) do any other thing which is necessary for the discharge of its functions under this Act.

(3) The Food Authority shall exercise its functions, as far as possible, in accordance with the well established scientific principles and international best practices.

8. Proceedings of the Food Authority.- No act proceedings of the Food Authority shall be questioned or invalidated merely on the ground of existence of any vacancy or defect in the constitution of the Food Authority.

9. Scientific panel.- (1) The Food Authority may establish one or more Scientific Panels, which shall consist of the following,-

- (a) Director General of the Food Authority (Convener);
 - (b) a representative, having background of food science or technology, of an organization established for determining standards and quality of food;
 - (c) a representative, having background of food science or technology, of an organization established for scientific or industrial research on food;
 - (d) a food technologist or scientist;
 - (e) a medical practitioner registered with Pakistan Medical and Dental Council, and
 - (f) three representatives of the food manufactures in the relevant field.
- (2) A Scientific Panel may co-opt any other member from the relevant industry.

(3) The Food Authority shall determine the terms and conditions, including tenure of members of the Scientific Panel other than *ex-officio* members.

(4) The Food Authority may refer any matter relating to food to the Scientific Panel for recommendation.

(5) The Scientific Panel may, after due deliberations with the relevant industry and consumer representatives, make recommendations to the Food Authority on standards, products, procedures, processes and guidelines in relation to any technical aspect of the food.

(6) If the Food Authority does not agree the recommendations of the Scientific Panel, it may, with reasons, refer the case back to the Scientific Panel for reconsideration.

(7) The Scientific Panel shall reconsider the reference and forward its reconsidered recommendations and the Food Authority shall act accordingly.

10. Director of the Food Authority.- (1) The ICT Administration shall nominate or appoint the Director Food Authority on such terms and conditions as it may determine.

(2) The Director Food Authority, who shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority, shall be responsible for efficient implementation of the Act.

(3) The Director Food Authority shall exercise such powers and functions as may be prescribed.

(4) The Director Food Authority shall also have the powers of the Food Safety Officer for whole area of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

11. Public analysts.- (1) The Food Authority may, by notification, appoint public analysts for the Islamabad Capital Territory.

(2) A public analyst shall possess such qualifications as may be prescribed.

(3) The production in a trial of a certificate under the hand of the public analyst shall, until the contrary is proved, be sufficient proof of the facts contained in the certificate.

(4) The Court may, of its own accord or on the request of the accused, cause any food or sample of food to be sent for analysis to the public analyst.

(5) Unless otherwise directed by the Court, the accused, on whose request any food or sample of food is sent to the public analyst, shall bear its cost.

12. Food Safety Officer.- (1) The Food Authority may, by notification, appoint Food Safety Officers for the Islamabad Capital Territory.

(2) A Food Safety Officer shall possess such qualifications as may be prescribed.

(3) Notwithstanding anything in sub-section (2), the Food Authority, in public interest, may confer the powers of a Food Safety Officer on a Government Servant.

13. Powers of Food Safety Officer.- (1) The Food Authority may,-

- (a) take sample of any food or any substance, which appears to him to be intended for sale, or has been sold as food;

- (b) seize any food, apparatus or utensil which appears to the Food Safety Officer to be in contravention of this Act, the rules or the regulations;
- (c) enter or seal any premises where he believes any food is prepared, preserved, packaged, stored, conveyed, distributed or sold, examine any such food and examine anything that he believes is used, or capable of being used for such preparation, preservation, packaging, storing, conveying, distribution or sale;
- (d) open and examine any package which, he believes, to contain any food;
- (e) examine any book or documents with respect to any food and make copies of or take extracts from the book or document;
- (f) demand the production of the identity card, the business registration certificate, licence or any other relevant document from a food operator;
- (g) mark, seal or otherwise secure, weigh, count or measure any food or appliance; and
- (h) Search and seize any vehicle carrying food.

(2) A Food Safety Officer shall prepare a statement describing the food, apparatus, utensil or vehicle seized and shall deliver a copy of the statement to the person from whom it is seized or, if such person is not present, send such copy to him by mail.

(3) A person claiming back anything seized under sub-section (1) may, within seven days of the seizure, apply to the Court and the Court may confirm such seizure, wholly or in part, or may order that it be restored to the claimant.

(4) If the Court confirms the seizure of the food, apparatus or utensil, it shall be forfeited to the Food Authority or the Court may direct that such food, apparatus, utensil may be destroyed at the cost of the owner or person in whose possession it was found.

(5) If an application is not made within seven days under sub-section (3), the food, apparatus or utensil seized, shall be forfeited to the Food Authority.

(6) Any person may make an application in writing to the Food Safety Officer asking him to purchase a sample of any food from a food operator and get it analyzed from the public analyst.

14. Other employees of the Food Authority.- The Food Authority may determine the number, categories, rank and terms and conditions of other employees of the Food Authority.

CHAPTER III ENFORCEMENT MECHANISM

15. Licensing of food business.-(1) A person shall not use any place for food business except under the prescribed registration or licence.

(2) The Food Authority may, in the prescribed manner, exempt a class of food operators from obtaining compulsory registration or licence under this section.

16. Improvement notice.-(1) If a Food Safety Officer has reasons to believe that any food operator has failed to comply with any provisions of the Act, the rules or the regulations, he may serve an improvement notice upon the food operator,-

- (a) stating the grounds for believing that the food operator has failed to comply with any provisions of the Act or the rules or the regulations;
- (b) specifying the matters which constitute the food operator's failure so to comply; and
- (c) intimating the measures which the food operator should take in order to secure compliance with the relevant provisions for the law.

(2) If the food operator fails to comply with the improvement notice within the prescribed time, the Food Authority may cancel or suspend his licence or take such other action as it deems appropriate.

17. Prohibition orders.- If any food operator is convicted of an offence under this Act and the Court is satisfied that the health risk exists with respect to the food business, the Court, may impose the following prohibitions,-

- (a) a prohibition on the use of a process, treatment, premises or equipment for purposes of the food business; or
- (b) a prohibition, with or without specifying period of prohibition, on the food operator to conduct or operate the food business.

18. Emergency Prohibition orders.- (1) If the Food Safety Officer is satisfied that the health risk condition exists with respect to any food business, he may, after serving a notice on the food operator and food reasons to be recorded in writing, restrain him from carrying on the food business with or without specifying conditions or period of such restraint.

(2) The Food Safety Officer shall, within twenty four hours of the action taken under sub-section (1), report such action to the Food Authority which may, after serving a notice on the food operator and for reasons to be recorded in writing, confirm, modify or set aside the order of the Food Safety Officer.

19. Notification of food poisoning.- The Food Authority may, by notification, require medical practitioners carrying on profession in any local area to report all occurrences of food poisoning to the Food Safety officer or the Food Authority.

20. Food recall procedures.-(1) If the Director General has reasons to believe that some food is not in compliance with this Act, the rules or the regulations, he may, after recording reasons, order immediate withdrawal of the said food from the market.

(2) Any person, who is aggrieved by any action taken under this section, may, in the prescribed manner, prefer an appeal to the Food Authority.

(3) The Food Authority may, on its own accord or on the application of an aggrieved person, set-aside or modify an order made under sub-section (1).

21. Establishment of food laboratories.-(1) The Food Authority may establish a food laboratory for purposes of carry out analysis of samples of any food or food related equipments or utensils.

(2) The Food Authority may recognize or accredit a food laboratory for any of the purposes contained in sub-section (1).

CHAPTER IV OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

22. Selling food not in compliance of the Law.- A person, who sells or offers for sale any adulterated food or food which is not in compliance with the provisions of this Act, the rules or the regulations, shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or fine which may extend to one million rupees or both.

23. Substandard or misbranded food.- A person, who manufactures for sale, stores, sells, distributes, imports or exports any food which is not of standard or misbranded, shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or fine which may extend to one million rupees or both.

24. Unsafe food.- A food operator, who manufactures for sale, stores, sells, distributes, imports or exports any unsafe food, shall be liable or both,-

- (a) where the unsafe food does not result in injury to any person, to imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or fine which may extend to two hundred thousand rupees or both;
- (b) where such unsafe food results in injury to any person, to imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or fine which may extend to one million rupees or both.
- (c) where such unsafe food results in death of a person, to imprisonment for a term which may extend to imprisonment for life or fine which shall not be less than two million rupees or both.

25. False advertisement.-(1) Any person, who for purposes of effecting or promoting the sale of any food, publishes or causes to be published, any advertisement which,-

- (a) falsely describes any food;
- (b) is contrary to any rules or regulations;
- (c) is likely to deceive a purchaser with regard to the character, nature, value, substance, quality, strength, purity, composition, merit or safety, weight, proportion, origin, age or effects of any food or of any ingredient or constituent of the food,

shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or fine which may extend to one million rupees or both.

(2) Any person, who publishes or causes to be published an advertisement, which does not contain the true name of the person by whom the advertisement is published or the address of his place of business, shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or fine which may extend to one million rupees or both.

26. False labeling.-(1) Any person, who prepares, packages, labels any food which does not comply with the prescribed standard, shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or fine which may extend to one million rupees or both.

(2) Any person, who labels any food in a manner which is false, misleading or deceptive as regards its character, nature, value, substance, quality, composition, merit or safety, strength, purity, weight, origin, age or proportion shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or fine which may extend to one million rupees or both.

27. Failure to comply with the directions.- If any person, without reasonable cause, fails to comply with any order or notice issued by the Food Authority or a Food Safety Officer, he shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or fine which may extend to five hundred thousand rupees or both.

28. Unhygienic or unsanitary conditions.- Any person, who manufactures or processes or keeps any food under unhygienic or unsanitary conditions, shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or fine which may extend to one million rupees or both.

29. Penalty for prescribed offences.- If a person, who commits an offence prescribed under the rules, for which no penalty has been provided in the Act, shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or fine which may extend to five hundred thousand rupees or both.

30. False information.- If a person makes a false or misleading statement, provides false or misleading information or produces any false or misleading document before the Food Authority or a Food Safety Officer, he shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or fine which may extend to five hundred thousand rupees or both.

31. Obstructing the Food Safety Officer.-(1) Any person, who obstructs a Food Safety Officer in the performance of his duties, shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or fine which may extend five hundred thousand rupees or both.

(2) Any person, who unlawfully removes, alters or interferes, in any manner, with any food, equipment or vehicle seized or any premises sealed under this Act, shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or fine which may extend to five hundred thousand rupees or both.

32. Business without licence.- If a food operator manufactures, sells, offers for sale, stores or distributes or imports any food without the prescribed registration or licence, he shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or fine which may extend to five hundred thousand rupees or both.

33. Warranty.-(1) A food operator who is a manufacturer, distributor or dealer of a prescribed food shall not sell such food to any food vendor unless a written warranty or other written statement is given that the food complies with the provisions of this Act, the rules and the regulations.

(2) Any person, who contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1), shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or fine which may extend to one million rupees or both.

(3) Any food vendor, who gives to the purchaser a warranty in writing which is false, shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or fine which may extend to five hundred thousand rupees or both.

34. Punishment for subsequent offence.-(1) If any person, after having been previously convicted of an offence under this Act, commits any offence under the Act, he shall be liable to,-

- (a) twice the punishment of imprisonment or fine, which is provided for the offence under the Act; and
- (b) a further fine which may extend to two hundred thousand rupees.
- (2) The licence of a food operator mentioned in sub-section (1) shall be cancelled.

35. Compensation in case of injury or death of a consumer.-(1) In case of injury or death of a consumer due to unsafe food, the Court, in addition to any other penalty under this Act, shall direct the food operator to pay compensation to the consumer or, as the case may be, the legal heirs of the consumer, an amount which is,-

- (a) not less than one million rupees in case of death; and
- (b) not exceeding five hundred thousand rupees in case of injury.

(2) If the food operator fails to pay the compensation under this section, the Food Authority shall recover the compensation as arrears of land revenue and make payment of the recovered amount to the consumer or, as the case may be, the legal heirs of the consumer or both.

36. Forfeiture of food.- In case of a conviction under this Act, the Court may direct that any food, equipment, machinery, vehicle or any other thing, to which the conviction relates, shall be confiscated and shall vest in the Food Authority.

37. Offences by companies.-(1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a Company, every person, who at the time of the commission of the offence, was in charge of the Company shall be liable to punishment for the offence and the Company shall also be liable to the punishment of fine or compensation specified for the offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where it is proved that the offence is attributable to any neglect on the part of any director, manager, secretary or other officer of the Company, such director, manager, secretary or other officer shall also be liable to punishment for the offence.

Explanation.- In this section, "Company" means a body corporate and includes a firm or any other association of persons.

38. Publication in newspapers.- If a person is convicted of an offence and the conviction has attained finality, the Food Authority shall, if so directed by the Court, publish the name of the person together with the name and place of his business, the nature of the offence and the fine, forfeiture, or other penalty imposed on him, in newspapers or in any other mode for information of the people and the convict shall be liable to pay the cost of such publication.

CHAPTER V JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURE

39. Jurisdiction of the Food Authority.-(1) On information received from a Food Safety Officer or any other person, the Food Authority may, for reasons to be recorded in writing,-

- (a) order prosecution of a person under this Act;
- (b) suspend or cancel the licence of the food operator;
- (c) impose on the food operator fine which may extend to five hundred thousand rupees; or
- (d) decide, if the circumstances so warrant, not to take any action on the information.

(2) If the Food Authority cancels the licence or imposes fine on a food operator, the food operator may, within fifteen days of the communication of the order, prefer an appeal against such order to such Appellate Authority as the Government may specify by notification in the official Gazette.

(3) The Food Authority or the Appellate Authority shall not pass any order relating to suspension or cancellation of the licence or imposition of fine without providing an opportunity or hearing to the food operator.

(4) An order of suspension of a licence under this section shall not be passed for a period exceeding seven days at a time and, unless sooner withdrawn or the licence is cancelled, shall cease to have effect on the expiry of the thirtieth day from the date of first such order.

40. Jurisdiction of the Court.- An offence punishable under this Act shall be tried by a Magistrate of First Class.

41. Cognizance of offences.-(1) Subject of sub-section (2), a Court shall not take cognizance of an offence under this Act except on a complaint made by or on behalf of the Food Authority.

(2) If the offence causes death of, or injury to, a person, the aggrieved person may also file a complaint in the Court under Chapter XVI of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 (*V of 1898*).

42. Time limit for prosecutions.- The prosecution for an offence under the Act shall not be allowed after the expiry of three years from the date of the commission of the offence or one year from its discovery by the complainant, whichever is the earlier.

43. Summary trial.-(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 (*V of 1898*) but subject to sub-section (3), the Court shall summarily try an offence punishable under this Act and impose punishment of imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or fine not exceeding one million rupees.

(2) The Court shall conduct the summary trial of an offence under the Act in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XXII of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 (*V of 1898*) relating to the summary trials.

(3) If the Court is of opinion that the nature of the offence does justify summary trial, it may conduct proceedings in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XX of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 (*V of 1898*).

44. Defence available.- In any proceedings for an offence under this Act, the exercise of due care and caution shall be valid defence if it is proved that the person took all reasonable precautions and exercised due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence.

45. Recovery of fines etc.-(1) The Food Authority shall recover the fine, fee or any other amount, imposed or levied, under the Act, the rules or the regulations, as an arrears of land revenue and , for the purpose, authorize an officer to exercise the powers of Collector under the West Pakistan Land Revenue Act 1967 (XVII of 1967).

(2) The fine imposed or the fee charge under the Act, the rules or the regulations shall be deposited with the Food Authority and shall form part of the Food Authority Fund.

CHAPTER VI FINANCES AND REPORTS

46. Food Authority Fund.-(1) There shall be established a fund to be known as the Food Authority Fund to be administered and controlled by the Food Authority.

(2) The Food Authority Fund shall consist of,-

- (a) funds provided by the Government;
- (b) loans or grants by the Government;
- (c) other loans or funds obtained by the Food Authority;
- (d) grants and loans negotiated and raised, or otherwise obtained, by the Food Authority with the prior approval of the Government;
- (e) fee, charges, rentals and dines collected by the Food Authority;
- (f) income from the lease or sale of the property;
- (g) funds from floating bonds, shares, debentures, certificates, or other securities issued by the Food Authority; and
- (h) all other sums received by the Food Authority.

(3) The Food Authority shall meet all of its expenses from the Food Authority Funds.

(4) It shall be the duty of the Food Authority to conserve the Food Authority Fund while performing its functions and exercising its powers under this Act.

47. Bank accounts.- The Food Authority may open and maintain its accounts at such scheduled banks as may be prescribed, and until so prescribed, as the Government may determine.

48. Budget and accounts.-(1) The Food Authority shall maintain proper accounts and other records relating to its financial affairs including its income and expenditures and its assets and liabilities in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

(2) After the conclusion of a financial year, the Food Authority, in the manner prescribed, shall cause to be prepared for the financial year statements of account of the Food Authority which shall include a balance-sheet and an account of income and expenditures.

(3) The Food Authority shall approve its annual budget for a financial year in the prescribed manner.

(4) No expenditure for which provision has not been made in any approved budget shall be incurred without prior approval of the Food Authority.

49. Audit.-(1) The Auditor General of Pakistan shall annually audit the accounts of the Food Authority.

(2) The Government, in addition to the audit under sub-section (1), shall cause the accounts of the Food Authority annually audited by the Chartered Accountant or a firm of Chartered Accountants.

(3) The auditor appointed under sub-section (2) shall be provided such access to the books, accounts and other documents as may be considered necessary for the audit of accounts.

(4) The auditor shall submit the annual or any special audit report to the Food Authority, and the Food Authority, under intimation to the Government, shall take appropriate remedial or other action in the light of the audit report.

50. Annual report.-(1) The Food Authority shall, within three months of the close of a financial year, submit to the Government an annual performance report.

(2) The report shall consist of,-

- (a) the statement of accounts and audit reports of the Food Authority;
- (b) a comprehensive statement of the work and activities of the Food Authority during the preceding financial year and its proposed projects and schemes; and
- (c) such other matters as may be prescribed or as the Food Authority may consider appropriate.

(3) The Government shall, within two months of receiving the report from the Food Authority, lay the report in both Houses of the Parliament (Majlis-e-Shoora).

CHAPTER VII MISCELLANEOUS

51. Delegation of powers.- The Food Authority may delegate, subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be specified in the order, any of its functions to a body, committee or an officer, except the function to,-

- (a) frame or amend regulations;
- (b) constitute a committee or fill a vacancy in a committee;
- (c) formulate standards, procedures, processes and guidelines in relation to any aspect of food; and
- (d) approve the annual report, annual budget and audited accounts.

52. Reward by the Food Authority.- The Food Authority may, in the manner prescribed by the rules, make payment of reward from the Food Authority Fund to any person who has made an exceptional effort towards accomplishing the objective of this Act.

53. Public servants.- The Chairperson, the members and the employees of the Food Authority shall be deemed, when acting in the discharge of their functions under this Act, to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Pakistan Penal code 1860 (XLV of 1860).

54. immunity.- No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Government, any officer of the Government, the Food Authority, the Chairperson, a member or any employee of the Food Authority for anything which is done in good faith under this Act, the rules or the regulations.

55. Overriding effect.- The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything contained in any other law.

56. Government to make rules.- The Government may make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

57. Food Authority to frame regulations.-(1) Subject to this Act and the rules, the Food Authority may, by notification, frame regulations to give effect to the provisions of the Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-section (1), the regulations may provide for,-

- (a) procedure for transaction of business of the Food Authority;
- (b) terms and conditions of services of the employees of the Food Authority;
- (c) procedure and conduct of business by a scientific panel;
- (d) standards and guidelines in relation to any food, food places, food workers and food handlers;
- (e) limits of additives, contaminants, toxic substance, heavy metals pesticides, veterinary drugs, residues etc., in the food;
- (f) marking, packaging, labeling, advertising and warranty of any food;
- (g) food recall procedures, improvement notices and prohibition orders;
- (h) licensing and registration procedures;
- (i) inspection of food business, safe and hygienic storage and transportation practices;
- (j) recognition and accreditation of laboratories and scale of fee for a laboratory test;
- (k) search of a premises, vehicle or person and guidelines for taking and handling samples of any food;
- (l) prosecutions and appeals under the Act; and
- (m) finances, accounts, budget and reporting procedures.

58. Repeal and savings.-(1) The West Pakistan Pure Food Ordinance 1960 (VII of 1960) is hereby repealed.

(2) Subject to this Act, any licence or order issued under the repealed Ordinance, which is in force on the date of coming into force of the Act, shall be deemed to have been issued under the Act and shall continue to be in force until expired, cancelled or withdrawn.

(3) The standards, safety requirements and other provisions of the repealed Ordinance or the rules made thereunder, shall, to the extent of consistency with the Act, continue to remain in force till the standards, safety requirements are prescribed under the Act.

59. Power to remove difficulties.- The Government may, by notification, make such provisions not inconsistent with this Act, as may appear necessary for removing any difficulty or giving effect to the provisions of the Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Safe, secure and hygienic food is the basic right of every man and woman. Every State is duty bound to ensure the availability of safe, secure and hygienic food to its citizen. Safe and hygienic food is the first line of defence against diseases. In Pakistan this is one of the most regrettable facts that our food lacks hygienic qualities and adulterated by people who are manufacturing, preparing or selling food items for their illegal gains. It is again one of the most regrettable facts that our existing legal regime is too weak to control food adulteration and make sure the availability of hygienic food to the residents of Islamabad. Low punishments and lack of enforcement mechanism has encouraged the culprits to manufacture, prepare and sell unhygienic adulterated food. The Bill has sought to establish a Food Authority in the Islamabad Capital Territory to ensure pure food to the people. Other officials for this purpose will also be appointed under this Bill. A comprehensive mechanism for regulating and managing food items is provided in the Bill. In the Bill, punishment for those indulged in the business of adulterated and unhygienic food has also been suggested. In this way, unhygienic and adulterated food items will be controlled and the expansion of diseases due to unhygienic food will be prevented.

2. The Bill has been designed to achieve the aforesaid objectives.