

**PASSED ON 10.04.2023.**

**[AS PASSED BY THE SENATE]**

**A**

**BILL**

*further to amend the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997*

**WHEREAS**, it is expedient further to amend the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997 (XXXIV of 1997), in its application to the Islamabad Capital Territory, for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

**1. Short title, extent and commencement.** - (1) This Act may be called the Pakistan Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2023.

(2) It shall extend to the Islamabad Capital Territory.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Amendment of section 11, Act No. XXXIV of 1997.** - In the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997 (XXXIV of 1997), in section 11, in sub-section (1), for the full stop "." occurring at the end, a colon ":" shall be substituted and thereafter, the following proviso shall be added, namely:-

"Provided that no amount of any industrial effluent or waste or public wastewater shall be thrown into rivers or canals without treatment of the same in an appropriate manner."

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

In our country rivers are being polluted in an alarming speed. Almost all factories in Pakistan mainly comprised of food and beverage, textile, crockery, paper printing, cement, publishing, chemical, rubber and leather products have been releasing a diverse range of untreated waste into their nearby natural drains. Wastewater treatment is necessary for allowing it to mix with other water bodies that are used for irrigation, drinking and other purposes. Only 8% of the country's total municipal wastewater and 1% of the industrial wastewaters are treated before they are discharged into the rivers. Such pollutants have very long-lasting effects on the sustainability of local ecosystems and pose a serious threat to human health. Industrial wastewaters contain many hazardous organic compounds and inorganic compounds like heavy metals which can cause damage to delicate aquatic ecosystems.

Under the current scenario, the above amendment has been proposed in the EPA Law so that individuals and factory owners may be stopped from throwing any amount of untreated wet waste directly into the rivers.

The bill has been designed to achieve the aforementioned purpose.

**SENATOR SEEMEE EZDI**  
**Member In charge**