

[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 shall be called the Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act, 2017.

(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, in sub-section (1), for clauses (i) to (viii), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

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| (a) Minister-in-charge of the Administrative Division; | <i>Chairperson</i> |
| (b) One woman member each of the National Assembly and the Senate to be nominated by the Speaker and the Chairman respectively; | <i>Members</i> |
| (c) Secretary of the administrative Division; | <i>Member</i> |
| (d) One woman prominent social worker from each province to be nominated by the Provincial Governments; and | <i>Members</i> |
| (e) An officer in BS-20 or above of the administrative Division. | <i>Member-cum-Secretary</i> |

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 faced extreme hardships.

2. In view of the Constitution (Eighteenth Amendment) Act, 2010 (X of 2010) and consequently reallocation of business of various Ministries and Divisions, it is expedient to amend the said Act for appropriate operation of the Fund, which is beneficial for all classes of women throughout the country.

3. The Bill seeks to achieve the aforesaid objective.

Sd/-
Mr. Kamran Michael
Minister for Human Rights