

AS
[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A

BILL

further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the purpose hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Insertion of new Article in the Constitution.- In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, after Article 25A, the following new Article shall be inserted, namely:-

"25B. Right to health.- (1) The State shall provide free health facilities to all citizens of Pakistan without any discrimination.

(2) Every citizen shall have the right to highest possible standards of physical and mental health."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Article 38(d) states that "the State shall provide basic necessities of life, such as food, clothing, housing, education and medical relief, for all such citizens, irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race, as are permanently or temporarily unable to earn their livelihood on account of infirmity, sickness or unemployment."

Although medical relief is mentioned in Article 38(d) which is under the unenforceable 'Principles of Policy' and another difficulty is that same to be provided only to those citizens who cannot earn their livelihood on account of infirmity, sickness or unemployment.

Important aspect of well-being for citizens is most neglected and health sector needs full attention of Federal Government.

It is the need of the time that health be given priority and health right be given to every citizen by inserting new Article 25B in Chapter 1.-Fundamental Rights in the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Amendment is proposed to achieve the aforesaid objects.

SENATOR SIRAJUL HAQ
Member-in-Charge