

SENATE SECRETARIAT
HOUSE OF THE FEDERATION

REPORT NO. 8 OF 2020



REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
CABINET SECRETARIAT

ON

"THE PAKISTAN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020"
INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MUHAMMAD JAVED ABBASI, IN THE SENATE
SITTING HELD ON 13TH JULY, 2020

PRESENTED BY
SENATOR MUHAMMAD TALHA MEHMOOD

CHAIRMAN SSC ON CABINET SECRETARIAT

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CABINET SECRETARIAT

I, Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet have the honour to present the Report of the Committee on "The Pakistan Commission of Inquiry (Amendment) Bill, 2020" introduced by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi, in the Senate Sitting held on 13th July, 2020. The House in its Sitting held on 13th July, 2020 referred the Bill to the Committee for consideration and report.

2. The Committee comprises of the following honourable members:--

1. Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood	Chairman
2. Senator Seemee Ezdi	Member
3. Senator Naseebullah Bazai	Member
4. Senator Muhammad Javeed Abbasi	Member
5. Senator Mushahid Ullah Khan	Member
6. Senator Najma Hameed	Member
7. Senator Dr. Asad Ashraf	Member
8. Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
9. Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
10. Senator Anwar Lal Deen	Member
11. Senator Mushtaq Ahmed	Member
12. Senator Samina Saeed	Member
13. Senator Muzafar Hussain Shah	Member
14. Minister In-Charge Cabinet Division	Ex-Officio Member

3. The Committee considered the Bill in its meeting held on 3rd September, 2020 at 2:30 pm in Committee Room No.4 at the Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting was attended by the following members:-

1) Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood	Chairman
2) Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi	Member/Member In-Charge
3) Senator Anwar Lal Dean	Member
4) Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
5) Senator Naseebullah Khan Bazai	Member
6) Senator Najma Hameed	Member
7) Senator Dr. Asad Ashraf	Member
8) Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
9) Senator Samina Saeed	Member
10) Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan	Minister-In-Charge Cabinet

4. Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi, Member-In-Charge apprised the Committee about the significance of his proposed amendments in the Bill stating its objects and reasons aimed at ensuring accountability, transparency and right to information of the public disclosure of Inquiry Commissions before the in-camera sessions of the National assembly and the Senate. He said that it would not only safeguard and uphold the principles of transparency.

accountability and right to information but would also maintain the secrecy and confidentiality of the reports on sensitive matters. The Special Secretary Cabinet Division expressed his point of view on the Bill. After deliberation the Chairman of the Committee put the Bill for voting. All the committee members unanimously voted in favour of the Bill and thus the Committee unanimously adopted and strongly recommended passing of the Bill by the Senate as introduced in the House.



ALI NAWAZ
Secretary Committee

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SENATOR MUHAMMAD TALHA MAHMOOD
Chairman Committee

As
[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

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BILL

further to amend the Pakistan Commissions of Inquiry Act, 2017

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Pakistan Commissions of Inquiry Act, 2017, (IX of 2017) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Pakistan Commissions of Inquiry (Amendment) Act, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 15, Act IX of 2017.- In the Pakistan Commissions of Inquiry Act, 2017 (IX of 2017), in section 15,-

(i) the existing section shall be numbered as sub-section (1);

(ii) for the second proviso, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"Provided further that the Commission may, in the public interest, recommend to the Federal Government that all or any part of the Final Report or interim report may not be made public, in such case the Federal Government shall present such report before the in-camera Session of the National Assembly and the senate within two weeks of the submission of the report to the Federal Government."

(iii) after sub-section (1) numbered as aforesaid, the following new sub-section (2), shall be added, namely:-

"(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the reports of all the previous commissions constituted under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1956 (VI of 1956-Repealed), and have been submitted to Federal Government with the recommendations that all or any part of the Final Report or interim report may not be made public or the Federal Government had decided that such reports shall not be made public, all such reports shall be presented before the in-camera session of the National Assembly and the Senate within the period of three months."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In order to ensure accountability, transparency and the right to information of the public the disclosure of the reports of Inquiry Commissions before the in-camera sessions of the National Assembly and the Senate will not only safeguard principles of transparency, accountability and the right to information but also maintain the secrecy and confidentiality of the reports on sensitive matters.

SENATOR MUHAMMAD JAVED ABBASI
Member-in-Charge