

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A.

**BILL**

*to amend the Gas (Theft Control and Recovery) Act, 2016*

**WHEREAS** it is expedient to amend the *Gas (Theft Control and Recovery) Act, 2016* (XI of 2016), for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

**1. Short title and commencement.**- (1) This Act shall be called the Gas (Theft Control and Recovery) (Amendment) Act, 2023.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Amendment of section 3, Act XI of 2016.**- In the *Gas (Theft Control and Recovery) Act, 2016* (XI of 2016), in section 3,

(a) in sub-section (1),

(i) for the words "Federal Government", the words "Federal Minister-in-Charge Law and Justice Division", shall be substituted; and

(ii) for the word "it", the word "he", shall be substituted; and

(b) in sub-section (2), for the words "Federal Government" the words "Federal Minister-in-Charge Law and Justice Division", shall be substituted.

**STATEMENT OF REASONS AND OBJECTS**

Section 3 of the *Gas (Theft Control and Recovery) Act, 2016*, provides for establishment of Gas Utility Courts, appointment of judges of such courts in consultation with Chief Justice of respective High Court, and setting the territorial limits of each such court by the Federal Government. This power of Federal Government under the said Act is proposed to be delegated to Minister-in-charge of Law and Justice Division for smooth disposal of the day to day functions.

Sd/-

(Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif)

Prime Minister/Minister in charge of Petroleum Division