

[AS PASSED BY THE SENATE]

A

Bill

to amend the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act,

2021

WHEREAS it is expedient it is further to amend the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act, 2021 (XXIII of 2021), in the manner and for the purpose hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

1. **Short title and commencement.** - (1) This Act shall be called the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals (Amendment) Act, 2023.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment in section 13, Act XXIII of 2002.**- in the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act, 2021 (XXIII of 2021), hereinafter called as the said Act, in section 13, -

a) In sub -section (1), for the words "of Human Rights in consultation with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting", "to which business of the Commission stands allocated" shall be substituted' and

b) In sub-section (2), for the words "of Human Rights in consultation with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting", "to which business of the Commission stands allocated" shall be substituted.

3. **Amendment in section 17, Act XXIII of 2021.**- in the said Act, in section 17, in sub-section (1), for clause (b), the following shall be substituted, namely: -

"(b) prepare an annual report on the state of media freedom and safety to be laid before the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament), through the Ministry to which business of the Commission stands allocated, and submit to that Ministry any other independent reports as and when considered necessary".

Subject: STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVE AND REASONS

Since "Liaison and coordination with Agencies and Media on matters concerning Government Policies and Activities" is the responsibility of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting under Item No. 16: Entry -9 of the Rules of Business 1973. Hence, the Prime Minister transferred implementation of "Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act, 2021" from Ministry of Human Rights to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting along with direction to make necessary amendments in the Act for its implementation.

2. It is informed that the above-mentioned decision has been ratified by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 24th January, 2023 under Case No. 08/02/2023.

Minister-in-Charge