

SENATE OF PAKISTAN

REPORT NO.2 of 2024



**REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

ON

**THE PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL TITLED "PAKISTAN HALAL AUTHORITY
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023"**

PRESENTED BY

**SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA
CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL TITLED "THE PAKISTAN HALAL AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023", INTRODUCED BY SENATOR DR. ZARQA SUHARWARDY TAIMUR IN THE SENATE SITTING HELD ON 30TH JANUARY, 2023, REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION AND REPORT

I, Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Science and Technology, have the honor to present, on behalf of the Committee, this report on the Private Member's Bill titled "The Pakistan Halal Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023", introduced by Senator Dr. Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur in the Senate sitting held on 30th January, 2023, referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Standing Committee is as under:-

1.	Senator Kamil Ali Agha	Chairman
2.	Senator Husna Bano	Member
3.	Senator Nadeem Ahmed Bhutto	Member
4.	Senator Muhammad Aslam Abro	Member
5.	Senator Syed Shibli Faraz	Member
6.	Senator Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan	Member
7.	Senator Nasir Mehmood	Member
8.	Senator Musadik Masood Malik	Member
9.	Senator Anywaar ul Haq	Member
10.	Senator Faisal Ali Subzwari	Member
11.	Minister for Science and Technology	Ex-Officio Member

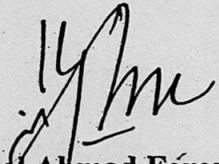
3. The Committee held its meetings on the agenda on 25th July, 19th August, 9th September, 25th September, 10th October and 4th December, 2024 chaired by Senator Kamil Ali Agha. The last meeting held on 4th December, 2024, chaired by Senator Kamil Ali Agha, had the following attendance:

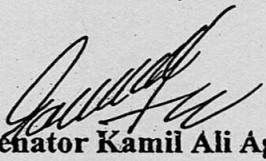
1.	Senator Muhammad Aslam Abro	Member
2.	Senator Nadeem Ahmed Bhutto	Member

4. The object of the proposed amendments is to enhance the regulatory mechanism of Pakistan Halal Authority to perform its functions properly and forcefully so as to ensure that edibles as well other items of consumer use containing Haram ingredients are not being sold in the country. The Bill was taken up by the Committee for consideration in its meetings. The mover of the Bill, Senator Dr. Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur, attended the Committee meeting held on 19th August, 2024. The Ministry maintained that the proposals contained in the Amendment

Bill are already catered for in the existing Act. It was, however, unanimously decided that the mover will sit with the Ministry to discuss the proposed Amendments. In the next meeting held on 9th September, 2024, which the mover did not attend, the Ministry informed that meetings were held with the mover to explain that the amendments proposed in the said Bill are already part of the existing Act. The Ministry further informed that no institution in the country offers specialized qualifications for Halal Certification. The Bill was taken up in all the consecutive meetings in the absence of the mover.

5. The Committee, after discussion in the meeting held on 4th December, 2024 and in the light of Order No.2.23, Part-II, Chapter III of the Standing Orders of the Senate unanimously decided to dispose of the subject Bill and recommended that the Pakistan Halal Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023, may not be passed by the House in its present form. The Committee also gave approval for presentation of the report to the House. The Bill, as introduced in the Senate, is annexed.


(Kamal Ahmad Feroz)
Secretary Committee


(Senator Kamil Ali Agha)
Chairman
Senate Standing Committee on
Science and Technology

A
Bill

further to amend the Pakistan Halal Authority Act, 2016

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Pakistan Halal Authority Act, 2016 (VIII of 2016), in its application to the Islamabad Capital Territory, for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title, extent and commencement. - (1) This Act may be called the Pakistan Halal Authority (Amendment) Act, 2022.

(2) It shall be applicable to the Islamabad Capital Territory.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 2, Act VIII of 2016.- In the Pakistan Halal Authority Act, 2016 (VIII of 2016), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 2,-

(a) after clause (h), the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(ha) **"Halal audit institution (s) or committee(s)"** means and institution or a committee working under the Accredited Halal Certification Body or formulated by the body as and when required, which conducts inspection and/ or testing of halal products through Inspector/s who have the ability to carry out the examination of halal products;

(b) after clause (i), the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:-

(la) **"Inspector"** means a person who has the ability and is specially qualified to carry out the examination of halal products and who ensures that a series of activities has been conducted that halal products include the provision of materials, processing, storage, packaging, distribution, sales and presentation;"

(c) after clause (r), the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(ra) **"products"** means goods and or/ services related to food, beverages, medicines, cosmetics, chemical products, biological products, products of genetic engineering, as well as the use of used goods by the community;"

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3. **Insertion of new section 12A, Act VIII of 2016.-** In the said Act, after section 12, the following new section shall be inserted, namely:-

"12A. Powers and Functions of Accredited Halal Certification

Body. - The Body shall perform the following functions,-

- (a) To formulate and establish policies regarding Halal product guarantee;
- (b) Establish norms, standards, procedures and criteria regarding Halal product guarantee;
- (c) Issue and revoke Halal Certificate and Halal Label on the product;
- (d) Halal Certificate on registration of foreign products;
- (e) Socialization, education and publications of Halal products;
- (f) Accreditation of Audit institution that conducts inspection or / testing of Halal products;
- (g) Registration of Inspector/s;
- (h) Conduct training of Inspector/s;
- (i) Cooperation with domestic and foreign institutions in the field of organizing Halal product guarantees; and
- (j) Conduct training of Halal Auditors/inspectors:

Provided that in exercising authority the Body shall cooperate with relevant Ministries and/or institutions in this regard."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The formation of Halal Authority in Pakistan is a very positive step in order to ensure that edibles as well other items of consumer use containing Haram ingredients are not being sold in the country. The formation of a regulatory mechanism in this regard would become effective only if the functions of the authority are properly being performed by her. In order to make the Halal Authority more functional and forceful in her decisions as well as implementation mechanism following considerations should be given due importance;

- i. Halal certification is the most complex process. Halal certification, unlike other leading types of food safety certifications, including ISO 22000 and FSSC 22000, is a product certification, meaning that each and every product needs to be separately certified. For the product to be halal, each and every ingredient, processing aid and packaging component as well as any units that process the product itself needs to comply to halal standards. Hence, the onus is on the procurement team to ensure that all raw materials being purchased are accompanied with a halal certificate or declaration. Hence amendments have been proposed in order to signify and specifically delineate the role and functions of an accredited halal certification body.

