

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

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BILL

further to amend the Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1973.

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1973 (LVIII of 1973), in the manner and for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

1. **Short title and commencement.**— (1) This Act shall be called the Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 2, Act LVIII of 1973.**— In the Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1973 (LVIII of 1973), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 2, after clause (b), the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:-

“(ba) “division concerned” means the division to which business of this Act stands allocated;”.

3. **Amendment of section 10, Act LVIII of 1973.**— In the said Act, in section 10, in sub-section (3), for the words “Federal Government”, the words “division concerned” shall be substituted.

4. **Amendment of section 11, Act LVIII of 1973.**— In the said Act, in section 11, in sub-section (1), for the words “Federal Government”, the words “division concerned” shall be substituted.

Subject: STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Implementation Tribunal for Newspaper Employees (ITNE), working under the administrative control of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as detailed in the Rules of Business – 1973: Schedule –II: Item No. 16: Entry -18, is responsible for implementing the Wage Board Awards for newspapers employees. ITNE is governed by Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1973.

2. In the light of Supreme Court's decision in Mustafa Impex Case, the Federal Cabinet, in Case No. 419/19/2017, dated 08-09-2017, directed that all Ministries/Divisions, in consultation with the Law and Justice Division, shall make amendments in respective Acts/Ordinances/Rules and replace the words “Federal Government” with appropriate authority(ies). The Federal Cabinet reiterated its earlier directions in Cases No. 241/15/2018, dated 12-04-2018 and No. 64/05/2022, dated 15-02-2022, so that Cabinet is not further burdened with routine cases.

3. In compliance with the directions of the Federal Cabinet, issued in Case No. 147/17/2025, dated 16.07.2025, the process to replace the words “Federal Government” with appropriate authorities in NECOSA, 1973, was re-initiated and subsequently the draft NECOSA(Amendment) Act, 2025 was approved and ratified by CCLC and Federal Cabinet respectively.

(Atta Ullah Tarar)
Minister for Information & Broadcasting