PAKISTAN SENATE
House of the Federation

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Report No.18/2026

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR & NARCOTICS CONTROL ON THE BILL FURTHER TO AMEND THE PAKISTAN PENAL CODE, 1860 AND CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, 1898, **"THE CRIMINAL LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026** (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 286 AND INSERTION 286A IN PPC AND SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS OF SECTION 261 AND SCHEDULE-II OF CR. PC) MOVED BY SENATOR SHAHADAT AWAN IN THE SENATE SITTING HELD ON 24TH AUGUST, 2026.

PRESENTED BY:
SENATOR FAISAL SALEEM REHMAN
CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR & NARCOTICS CONTROL ON "THE CRIMINAL LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026 (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 286 AND INSERTION 286A IN PPC AND SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS OF SECTION 261 AND SCHEDUL- II OF CR. PC) MOVED BY SENATOR SHAHADAT AWAN, IN THE SENATE SITTING HELD ON 24TH AUGUST, 2026.

I, Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman, Chairman, Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control, have the honor to present this report, on behalf of the Committee, on the Bill further to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 and Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, **"THE CRIMINAL LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026** (Amendment of section 286 and insertion 286A in PPC and subsequent amendments of section 261 and schedule II of Cr. PC) moved by Senator Shahadat Awan, in the Senate Sitting held on 24th August, 2026, and referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

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

1.	Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman	Chairman
2.	Senator Syedaal Khan	Member
3.	Senator Syed Faisal Ali Sabzwari	Member
4.	Senator Shahadat Awan	Member
5.	Senator Naseema Ehsan	Member
6.	Senator Saifullah Abro	Member
7.	Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri	Member
8.	Senator Umer Farooq	Member
9.	Senator Palwasha Muhammad Zai Khan	Member
10.	Senator Jam Saifullah Khan	Member
11.	Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood	Member
12.	Senator Mir Dostain Khan Domki	Member
13.	Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
14.	Senator Abid Sher Ali	Member
15.	Minister for Interior	Ex-Officio Member

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3. The Committee considered the Bill during its meeting held on 7th September, 2026, which was attended by the following Members, namely:-

1.	Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman	Chairman
2.	Muhammad Talha Mehmood	Member
3.	Senator Shahadat Awan	Member/Mover
4.	Senator Naseema Ehsan	Member
5.	Senator Saifullah Abro	Member
6.	Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri	Member
7.	Senator Umer Farooq	Member
8.	Senator Palwasha Muhammad Zai Khan	Member
9.	Senator Jam Saifullah Khan	Member
10.	Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
11.	Minister of State for Interior	Ex-officio Member
12.	Senator Sarmad Ali	Mover
13.	Senator Bushra Butt	Mover

4. At the outset, Senator Shahadat Awan, briefing the Committee on the contents of the Bill, stated that the un-authorised transfer of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) from commercial cylinders into smaller or unregulated containers remained a pervasive and unregulated practice across Pakistan, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas. He stated that this illicit activity circumvented licensed distribution channels, enabling roadside vendors and informal traders to supply gas at lower prices. He added that the implications of decanting were stark and multifaceted: safety hazards, including improper decanting leading to overfilling, faulty valves, and substandard containers, had resulted in frequent cylinder explosions, leaks, and fires. He stated that the existing criminal laws of Pakistan addressed the issue only under provisions relating to explosive materials, which could not be regarded as a reasonable regulation of the offence. He further stated that the proposed amendment provided a definition of "decanting" in the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) and prescribed rigorous penalties for the offence. He therefore commended the Bill to the Committee. Senator Jam Saifullah Khan concurred with

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the mover's remarks and supported the objects and reasons of the Bill.

5. Senator Shahadat Awan further informed the Committee that the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) had supported the Bill. The representative of the Ministry of Law and Justice, however, stated that the existing OGRA/LPG regulatory framework already covered the proposed provision, and that the amendment would therefore result in duplication. He further stated that the terms "unauthorised, unsafe, and likely to endanger" were broad and vague, and that the proposed punishment of ten years' imprisonment was disproportionate to a regulatory violation absent injury or damage, which would create enforcement problems.

6. After detailed deliberations, the Chairman put the Bill to vote, and the Committee unanimously recommended that the Bill, as introduced in the Senate, may be passed.

(HAMMAD KHAN MARRI)
J.S / Secretary (Committee)

(SENATOR FAISAL SALEEM REHMAN)
Chairman (Committee)

Islamabad, the
7th September, 2026.

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INTRODUCED ON:- 24-08-2026

[~~TO BE~~ AS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A

Bill

further to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 and Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (XLV of 1860) and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (V of 1898) for the purposes hereinafter appearing:

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.** - (1) This Act may be called the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of Section 286 of the Act XLV of 1860.**- In the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (XLV of 1860), hereinafter referred to as the Code, for the expression "of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to three thousand rupees, or with both.", the expression, **"of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend to two hundred thousand rupees, or with both. "**, shall be substituted.

3. **Insertion of Section 286A, in the Act XLV of 1860.**- In the Code, after Section 286, as amended, the following new section shall be inserted, namely:-

" 286A. Illegal decanting of Liquefied Petroleum Gas.- Whoever, except in the manner prescribed by law, transfers Liquefied Petroleum Gas from one container to another or performs the act of decanting, in a manner that is unauthorized, unsafe, or likely to endanger human life, property, or public safety, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, or a fine which may extend to one million rupees, or with both.

Explanation: For the purposes of this section, "decanting" means the transfer of Liquefied Petroleum Gas from one container (including cylinders, tanks, or other vessels) to another, whether for the purpose of resale, sub-metering, or any other commercial or non-commercial use. The absence of a valid licence or authorization by the authorized Government or Authority shall be deemed sufficient proof of illegality unless the accused proves authorization to the contrary on a balance of probabilities."

4. **Amendment of Section 261, Act V of 1898.**- In the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (V of 1898), hereinafter referred to as the Code, in paragraph (a), the number "286", shall be omitted.

5. **Amendment of schedule II, Act V of 1898.**- In the Code, in Schedule II, for the entries relating to section 286, the following entries shall be substituted, namely:-

286	So dealing with any explosive substance.	May Arrest without Warrant	Warrant	Not Bailable	Not Compoundable	Imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend to two hundred thousand rupees, or with both.	Magistrate of the first or second class.

6. Amendment of Schedule II, Act V of 1898.-In the Code, in Schedule II, after the entries relating to section 286, as amended, the following new entries shall be inserted, namely:-

286 A	Illegal decanting of Liquefied Petroleum Gas	Ditto	Warrant	Not Bailable	Not Compoundable	Imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, or a fine which may extend to one million rupees, or with both.	Court of Session

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The unauthorized transfer of the LPG from commercial cylinders into the smaller or unregulated containers remains a pervasive and unregulated practice across Pakistan, particularly in the rural and semi-urban areas. This illicit activity circumvents licensed distribution channels, enabling roadside vendors and informal traders to supply gas at lower prices. The implications of decanting are stark and multifaceted. Safety hazards include improper decanting leading to overfilling, faulty valves, and substandard containers, resulting in frequent cylinder explosions,

leaks and fires. The criminal laws of Pakistan address the issue as explosive materials that cannot be termed as reasonable regulation of the offence. This amendment provides definition of decanting in the Pakistan penal Code and prescribes rigorous penalties for the offence.

Sd/-
Senator Shahadat Awan
Member-in-Charge