

Introduced on:- 18-10-2026

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

A

BILL

further to amend the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961 (VIII of 1961)

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961 (VIII of 1961), for the purpose to provide financial assistance in the form of *Mata'a* for the divorced wife;

It is hereby enacted as follows:

1. Short Title, Extent, and Commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Muslim Family Laws (Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall extend to the Islamabad Capital Territory.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of Section 2, Ordinance VIII of 1961.- In the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961, hereinafter referred to as the said Ordinance, in section 2, after paragraph (b), the following shall be inserted, namely:-

"(bb) '*Mata'a*' means a reasonable and fair provision made by the husband in favour of the wife upon dissolution of marriage, in accordance with his financial means, and may include payment in cash or transfer of movable or immovable property."

3. Insertion of Section 10-A, Ordinance VIII of 1961.- In the said Ordinance, after section 10, the following shall be inserted, namely:-

"10-A. *Mata'a*.- (1) Where a marriage is dissolved by the husband under section 7, the wife shall be entitled to *Mata'a* to be paid by the husband.

Provided that where the wife, after the dissolution of marriage and before payment of *Mata'a*, contracts another marriage, she shall not be entitled to claim or receive *Mata'a* under this section.

(2) The amount of *Mata'a* shall be determined by the Family Court, having regard to—

(a) the financial position and means of the husband;

(b) the duration of the marriage;

(c) the standard of living enjoyed by the wife during the marriage; and

(d) any other relevant circumstances of the case.

(3) *Mata'a* shall be in addition to dower (*haq mehr*), maintenance, or any other financial rights of the wife under any law for the time being in force.

(4) The claim for *Mata'a* may be filed before the Family Court having jurisdiction and shall be decided in such manner as may be prescribed."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Bill seeks to amend the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961 to provide for *Mata'a*, a fair and reasonable provision by the husband in favour of the wife upon dissolution of marriage by *talaq*, in order to provide financial assistance and protection against financial hardship following divorce.

The concept of *Mata'a* is rooted in Islamic principles and aims to ensure fairness, equity and dignity for women upon divorce. The proposed amendment provides a legal framework for the determination of such provision by the Family Court, having regard to the financial capacity of the husband and the circumstances of the marriage.

The Bill further provides that where a divorced wife contracts another marriage after the dissolution of her previous marriage and before payment of *Mata'a*, she shall not be entitled to claim or receive *Mata'a* under the proposed provision.

The proposed amendment empowers the Family Courts to determine such provision based on the financial capacity of the husband, the duration of the marriage, the standard of living enjoyed by the wife and other relevant circumstances.

2. The Bill is designed to achieve the aforesaid object.

Sd/-
SENATOR SARMAD ALI
Member-in-Charge