

[AS PASSED BY THE SENATE]

A

Bill

further to amend the Area Study Centres Act, 1975

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Area Study Centres Act, 1975 (XLV of 1975) 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 Area Study Centres (Amendment) Act, 2026.
(2) It shall come into force at once.
2. **Amendment of section 2, Act XLV of 1975.-** In the Area Study Centres Act, 1975 (XLV of 1975), hereinafter referred to as "the said Act", in section 2,-
 - (a) for clause "(c)" the following shall be substituted namely:-
"(c) "Commission" means the Higher Education Commission"
 - (b) after clause (d), the following shall be inserted, namely:-
"(d) "division concerned " means to which the business of the Act stands allocated;"
3. **Amendment of section 4, Act XLV of 1975.-** In the said Act, in section 4, in clause (f) for the words " Federal Government", the words " division concerned" shall be substituted.
4. **Amendment of section 5, Act XLV of 1975.-** In the said Act, in section 5, in sub section (1), in clause(g),-
 - (a) after the word "experts", the comma and words ",out of which one shall be female" shall be inserted; and
 - (b) for the words "Federal Government", the words "division concerned" shall be substituted.
5. **Amendment of section 6, Act XLV of 1975.-** In the said Act, in section 6, in sub-section (1), for the words "Federal Government", wherever occurring, the words "Prime Minister" shall be substituted.
6. **Amendment of section 7, Act XLV of 1975.-** In the said Act, in section 7, in sub-section (1) in clause (c) after the words "experts", the comma and words " out of which one shall be female" shall be inserted.

7. **Amendment of section 9, Act XLV of 1975.-** In the said Act, in section 9;-

- (a) in sub-section (3), for the words "Federal Government", the words "division concerned" shall be substituted.
- (b) in sub-section (4), for the words "Federal Government", wherever occurring, the words "division concerned" shall be substituted.

8. **Amendment of section 11, Act XLV of 1975.-** In the said Act, in section 11, for the words "Commission", the words "division concerned" shall be substituted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECT AND REASONS

Cabinet Division communicated Honorable Prime Minister 's directives to ensure "33% women representations in all Federal Boards, Statutory Bodies, Public Sector Organizations and Allied Committees under Federal Government (Task No. F16367C)". In order to ensure the compliance of the above, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has started process of making necessary amendments in the existing laws of the autonomous organizations under the ambit of the Ministry.

2. There is a dire need to bring adequate amendments in the existing Area Study Centre Act No. XLV of 1975. The Bill seeks to achieve the aforesaid object.



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