

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

**A
BILL**

further to amend the Dowry and Bridal Gifts (Restriction) Act, 1976 (No. XLIII of 1976).

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Dowry and Bridal Gifts (Restriction) Act, 1976, for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Dowry and Bridal Gifts (Restriction) (Amendment) Act, 2016.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 3 Act XLIII of 1976.- In the Dowry and Bridal Gifts (Restriction) Act, 1976 (No. XLIII of 1976), hereinafter called the said Act, in section 3.-

(a) in sub-section (1).-

(i) for the words "five thousand rupees", the words "fifty thousand rupees if the marriage ceremony is held in urban area and twenty thousand rupees if such ceremony is held in rural area", shall be substituted; and

(ii) in the explanation for the words "five thousand rupees" the words and commas "fifty thousand rupees and twenty thousand rupees, respectively", shall be substituted.

(b) after sub-section (2), the following new sub-sections (3) and (4) shall be added namely:-

"(3) No bridegroom or any person on his behalf shall demand dowry, gift or give any indication of such demand in any manner whatsoever.

(4) If any person demands, directly or indirectly, from the parents or other relatives or guardian of a bride, as the case may be, any dowry, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months, but which may extend to two years and with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees:

Provided that the court may, for adequate and special reasons to be mentioned in the judgment, impose a sentence of imprisonment for a term of less than six months."

3. Amendment of section 4, Act XLIII of 1976.- In the said Act, in section 4, for the words, "one hundred rupees", the words, "one thousand rupees if the marriage ceremony is held in urban area and five hundred rupees if the marriage ceremony is held in rural area", shall be substituted.

4. Amendment of section 6, Act XLIII of 1976.- In the said Act, in section 6, for the words "two thousand five hundred rupees", the words, "fifty thousand rupees if the marriage is

ceremonised in urban area and fifty thousand rupees if such ceremony is held in rural area”, shall be substituted and the following explanation shall be added, namely:-

“Explanation:- All forms of extravagance, unnecessary illumination, firing or fire cracking, of any kind and serving food more than one dish at all marriage functions shall be avoided.”

5. **Insertion of a new section 6A, Act XLIII of 1976.**- In the said Act, after section 6, the following new section 6A shall be added, namely.-

“6A. **Restriction of Attendance.**- Whoever knowingly and willfully attends a marriage function which is so extravagant that it is patently far beyond the limits specified by this Act shall be punished with fine amounting to rupees five hundred.”

6. **Amendment of section 8, Act XLIII of 1976.**- In the said Act, in section 8 after sub-section (2), the following new sub-section (3) shall be added, namely:-

“(3) The parents or guardians of each party to a marriage shall prepare and enter complete list of dowry in the Nikkah form duly signed by all the witnesses of Nikkah and by the Nikkah Khawan at the time of Nikkah.”

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

These recommendations of Pakistan Law Commission seek to amend the Dowry and Bridal Gifts (Restriction) Act, 1976 in order to curtail extravagance in expenditure in marriage functions, to impose ban or demand of dowry and to protect the rights of brides in respect of their belongings and to resolve future disputes between the spouses.

Sd/-

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