

[*As* INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A
BILL

further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:

1. **Short title and commencement.**— (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2019.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of Article 51 of the Constitution.**— In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, hereinafter referred to as the Constitution, in Article 51,—

(a) in clause (1), for the words “three hundred and thirty six” the words “three hundred and forty one” shall be substituted; and

(b) in clause (4) for the word “ten” the word “fifteen” shall be substituted.

3. **Amendment of Article 106, of the Constitution.**— In the Constitution, in Article 106 in clause (1), for the table the following shall be substituted, namely:—

	General Seats	Women	Non-Muslims	Total
Balochistan	51	11	04	66
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	115	26	04	145
Punjab	297	66	12	375
Sindh	130	29	14	173

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Under Article 36 of the Constitution, the State is obliged to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of minorities. Presently under Article 51(4) of the Constitution, ten seats are reserved for non-Muslims in the National Assembly. As per Article 106 the table indicates the number of seats in the Provincial Assembly to be allocated to non-Muslims. There were ten reserved seats for non-Muslims when the number of general seats were 207. When general seats were increased to 272 in 2002, the number of seats reserved for non-Muslims remained the same i.e. 10. The Minority Community strongly feels that minorities representation in National and Provincial Assemblies may be increased according to the proportion to the population of non-Muslims.

2. The Bill seeks to achieve the above-said objectives.

Sd/-

Dr. Darshan

MEMBER-IN-CHARGE