

[ AS : INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ]

A  
Bill

*further to amend the Anti-terrorism Act, 1997*

**WHEREAS** it is expedient further to amend the Anti-terrorism Act, 1997 (XXVII of 1997), for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.**- (1) This Act shall be called the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Act, 2024.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 11EEEE, Act XXVII of 1997.**- In the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997,(XXVII), in section 11EEEE,-

(a) for sub-section (1), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(1) The Government or, where the provisions of section 4 have been invoked, the armed forces or civil armed forces, as the case may be, subject to the specific or general order of the Government in this regard, for a period not exceeding three months and after recording reasons thereof, issue order for the preventive detention of any person who has been concerned in any offence under this Act relating to the security or defence of Pakistan or any part thereof, or public order relating to target killing, kidnapping for ransom, and extortion, bhatta, or the maintenance of supplies or services, or against whom a reasonable complaint has been made or credible information has been received, or a reasonable suspicion exists of his having been so concerned, for purpose of inquiry:

Provided that the detention of such person, including detention for further period after three months, shall be subject to the provision of Article 10 of the Constitution.”;

(b) in sub-section (2), for the full stop, at the end, a colon shall be substituted and thereafter the following proviso shall be added, namely :-

“Provided that where the detention order has been issued by the armed forces or civil armed forces under sub-section (1), the inquiry shall be conducted by the JIT comprising of a police officer not below the rank of Superintendent of Police, Intelligence agencies, civil armed forces, armed forces and other law enforcing agencies.”; and

(c) after sub-section (2), amended as aforesaid, the following new sub-section shall be inserted, namely:-

“(2A) The provisions of subsection (1) and (2) shall remain in force for a period of two years from the commencement of the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Act, 2024 ( of 2024).”.

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Section 11E of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 was amended in 2014, providing the Government and authorized Armed Forces / Civil Armed Forces with the authority to conduct preventive detention of individuals suspected of involvement in terrorism-related activities. This provision was designed to empower law enforcement agencies to pre-emptively address security threats by detaining suspects for a period not exceeding three months, thereby allowing for thorough inquiries and preventing potential terrorist acts. However, this amendment was subject to a sunset clause, limiting its validity to a period of two years, which was expired in 2016.

2. Further, the current security situation requires a robust response that goes beyond the existing legal framework. The erstwhile amendments of Section 11E of the Act *ibid.* are required to be re-inserted to empower the Government, Armed Forces, and Civil Armed Forces with the necessary authority to detain individuals who pose a significant threat to national security. This provision would allow for the preventive detention of suspects based on credible information or reasonable suspicion, thereby disrupting terrorist plots before they can be executed. This will also provide Law Enforcement Agencies with the legal backing to conduct more effective operations against terrorism. It would facilitate the use of Joint Interrogation Teams (JITs), composed of members from various law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to conduct comprehensive inquiries and gather actionable intelligence.

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

  
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