

THE PUNJAB MARRIAGE RESTRAINT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2015

Bill No. 15 of 2015

A BILL

to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (XIX of 1929)

Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (XIX of 1929) for purposes of curbing the menace of child marriage prevalent in the country and to save women from exploitation on that account, and for ancillary matters;

It is enacted as follows:

1. Short title and commencement.— (1) This Act may be cited as the Punjab Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act 2015.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment in section 1 of Act XIX of 1929.— In the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (XIX of 1929), hereinafter “the said Act”, in section 1, in subsection (2), for the word “Pakistan” the words “the Punjab” shall be substituted.

3. Amendment in section 2 of Act XIX of 1929.— In the said Act, for section 2, the following shall be substituted:

“2. Definitions.— In this Act:

- (a) “child” means a person who, if a male, is under eighteen years of age, and if a female, is under sixteen years of age;
- (b) “child marriage” means a marriage to which either of the contracting parties is a child;
- (c) “Government” means Government of the Punjab;
- (d) “minor” means person of either sex who is under eighteen years of age; and
- (e) “Union Council” means a Union Council, Municipal Committee, Cantonment Board, a Union Administration or, in case of absence of any of these local governments in a local area, any other comparable body constituted under any law relating to the local governments or local authorities.”.

4. Amendment in section 4 of Act XIX of 1929.— In the said Act, for section 4, the following shall be substituted:

“4. Punishment for marrying a child.— If a person, not being a minor, contracts child marriage, he shall be liable to punishment of simple imprisonment which may extend to six months and fine of fifty thousand rupees.”

5. Amendment in section 5 of Act XIX of 1929.— In the said Act, in section 5, for the expression “one month or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both”, the words “six months and fine of fifty thousand rupees” shall be substituted.

6. Amendment in section 6 of Act XIX of 1929.— In the said Act, in section 6, for the expression “one month, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees”, the words “six months and fine of fifty thousand rupees” shall be substituted.

7. Amendment in section 9 of Act XIX of 1929.— In the said Act, for section 9, the following shall be substituted:

“9. Cognizance of offence and trial.— (1) A Family Court shall not take cognizance of any offence under this Act except on a complaint made by the Union Council.

(2) A Family Court exercising the powers of a Judicial Magistrate of the first class shall conduct the trial of an offence under this Act in accordance with the provisions of Family Court Act, 1964 (XXXV of 1964).”
