



THE LAW COMMISSION ORDINANCE, 1979



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THE LAW COMMISSION ORDINANCE, 1979

ORDINANCE No. XIV OF 1979

[24th February, 1979]

An Ordinance to establish a ¹[Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan]

WHEREAS it is expedient to establish a ¹[Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan] for a systematic development and reform of the laws and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto;

AND WHEREAS the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action;

NOW, THEREFORE, in pursuance of the Proclamation of the fifth day of July 1977, read with the Laws (Continuance in Force) Order, 1977 (*C. M. L. A. Order No. 1 of 1977*), and in exercise of all powers enabling him in that behalf, the President is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance :-

1. Short title, extent and commencement.-(1) This Ordinance may be called the ¹[Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan] Ordinance, 1979.

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions. In this Ordinance, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

(a) “Chairman” means Chairman of the Commission;

(b) “Commission” means the Commission established under section 3; [:]²

²[(c) “Fund” means Access to Justice Development Fund established under section 6-A; and”.]

²(d) “member” means member of the Commission.

3. Composition of Commission.-²[(1) There shall be a Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan consisting of-

(a) the Chief Justice of Pakistan who shall be the Chairman, *ex-officio*;

(b) the Chief Justice of the Federal Shariat Court, Member, *ex-officio*;

3[(c)] the Chief Justice, of the High Court, Members, *ex-officio*;

¹Subs. by Ord. 70 of 02, s. 2.

²Omitted, re-numbered, ins. & subs. by Ord. 70 of 02, ss. 3 & 4.

³Subs omitted by Act VIII of 2014, s. 2.

- (d) Attorney General for Pakistan, Member, *ex-officio*;
- (e) the Secretary, Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights, Member, *ex-officio*;
- (f) Chairperson for Commission on Women Status, Member, *ex-officio*;

¹[(g)] four members, one from each Province, to be appointed by the Federal Government, on the recommendation of the Chairman in consultation with the Chief Justice of concerned High Court from amongst the persons who are or have been holders of a judicial or administrative office, eminent lawyers or jurists, persons of repute and integrity from civil society, members of the Council of Islamic Ideology or teachers of law in a university or college;".

(1A) In addition to the members referred to in sub-section (1), the Chairman may, in his discretion, appoint a suitable person or persons as member or members for a specified period to perform specified functions.”]

(3) A member, other than an *ex-officio* member, shall hold office for a term of three years but shall be eligible for re-appointment for another term.

(4) A member, other than an *ex-officio* member, may resign his office by writing under his hand addressed to the President.

4. Head Office. The head office of the Commission shall be situated in Islamabad or at such other place as the Federal Government may specify.

5. Secretariat.-(1) The Commission shall have a separate Secretariat to be headed by a Secretary, who shall be an officer of the Federal Government not inferior in rank to a joint Secretary to the Federal Government.

(2) The Secretary and other officers and employees of the Commission shall be appointed by the Chairman on such terms and conditions as the Commission may determine.

(3) The Commission may, for the purpose of research, engage, for a specified period, as many persons as it considers necessary.

6. Functions of the Commission.-(1) The Commission shall study and keep under review on a continuing systematic basis the statutes and other laws with a view to making recommendations to the Federal Government and the Provincial Governments for the improvement, modernization and reform thereof and, in particular, for-

- (i) making or bringing the laws into accord with the changing needs of the society, consistent with the ideology of Pakistan and the concept of Islamic social justice;

¹Subs.omitted by Act VIII of 2014, s. 2.

- (ii) adopting of simple and effective procedure for the administration of laws to ensure substantial, in-expensive and speedy justice;
- (iii) arranging the codification and unification of laws in order to eliminate multiplicity of laws on the same subject;
- (iv) removing anomalies in the laws;
- (v) repealing obsolete or unnecessary provisions in the laws;
- (vi) simplifying laws for easy comprehension and devising steps to make the society law-conscious;
- (vii) introduction of reforms in the administration of Justice; and
- (viii) removing inconsistencies between the laws within the legislative competence of Parliament and those within the legislative competence of a Provincial Assembly.

¹“(2) The Commission shall take appropriate measures for-

- (a) developing and augmenting human resources for efficient court administration and case management;
- (b) coordination of judiciary and executive; and
- (c) preparing schemes for access to justice, legal aid and protection of human rights.

(3) The Commission shall administer and manage the Access to Justice Development Fund.”]

¹[(4)] The Commission shall study the present system of legal education and make recommendations to the Federal Government for improving the standard of legal education.

¹[(5)] The Federal Government, or a Provincial Government may refer to the Commission any matter relevant to its functions for opinion and advice:

²[(6) The Commission may, with the approval of the Federal Government, enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Law Commission of any country or, as the case may be, with any legal or human rights body or organization of any country to-

- (i) collaborate, cooperate and participate through consultation in carrying out legal research in connection with their respective functions;
- (ii) facilitate one another in the collection of data and materials in conducting legal research;
- (iii) have bilateral and reciprocal exchange of reports, research material and other publications;

¹Re-numbered & ins. by Ord. 70 of 02, ss. 5 & 6.

²Added by Act VIII of 2014, s. 3.

- (iv) facilitate visits, training and exchange of delegates, members and officers of the respective Commissions or, as the case may be, the respective law or human rights body or organization; and
- (v) mutually agree, on case by case basis, on financial arrangements for holding meetings undertaking exchange visits and other activities as envisaged in the Memorandum of Understanding;

Provided that the notification of any such Memorandum of Understanding shall be carried out with the approval of concerned Ministry of Federal Government”.]

¹[“**6A. Fund.**-(1) There shall be established for the purposes of this Ordinance a fund to be called the Access to Justice Development Fund.

(2) The Fund shall consist of-

- (a) an endowment grant of initial amount equivalent to US \$24 million by the Federal Government in Installments;
- (b) other grants and donations made by the Federal Government Provincial Governments or a Local Government;
- (c) donations and contributions made by the individuals or institutions; and
- (d) sums raised by the Commission.

6B. Expenditure to be charged on the Fund. The annual income generated by investment of endowment grant under clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 6A shall be utilized for the purposes and to the extent provides as hereunder:

- (a) 60.3% shall be allocated to the provinces on population basis to be called Provincial Judicial Development Fund for improving the capacity and performance of the subordinate courts and providing amenities and facilities to courts and litigants, as may be determined by the respective High Court (s);
- (b) 10% shall be set aside for special projects in the under-developed Provinces and regions;
- (c) not more than 4.5% on Legal and Judicial Research;
- (d) not more than 4.5% on the activities of the Federal ²[and Provincial] Judicial Academy not covered by its budgetary allocation;

¹Re-numbered & ins. by Ord. 70 of 02, ss. 5& 6.

²Ins. by Act VIII of 2014, s. 4.

- (e) not more than minimum of 13.5% with a cap of 20% for the legal empowerment of the poor and underprivileged persons for provision of legal aid or assistance to have access to Justice, in accordance with the criteria to be laid by the Commission;
- (f) not more than minimum 4.5% with a cap of 10% to be spent on innovations in or promotion of legal education;
- (g) 2.7% shall be charged by the Commission for management of the Fund:

Provided that an amount allocated under clauses (a) to (g) if not spent for any category shall be carried forward for the same purposes for the next two years;

- (h) all other fund other than provided in clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 6-A and the proceeds thereof, shall be utilized by the Commission for discharging its duties and functions under this Ordinance.

6C. Constitution of Committees. The Commission may constitute committees consisting of one or more of its members, as it thinks fit, and may refer to them any matter relevant to the functions of the Commission for consideration and report.

6D. Reports. The Commission shall publish an annual report of its activities and such other periodic or special reports requiring legislative or implementation effect as it may consider necessary. The Commission shall submit the reports to the President of Pakistan.]

7. Application of Act VI of 1956. The provisions of the Pakistan Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1956 (VI of 1956), shall apply to the Commission as if the Commission were a Commission appointed under that Act to which all the provisions of section 5 thereof applied.

8. Assistance to Commission. All executive authorities in Pakistan shall assist the Commission in the performance of its functions.

9. Power to make rules.-(1) The Commission may make rules¹ for carrying out the purposes of this Ordinance.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provision, such rules may provide for payment to the members of a travelling allowance and daily allowance in respect of journeys performed in connection with the functions of the Commission.

¹For such rules, see. S.R.O. No. 977 (I)/80 and 978 (I)/80, dated 4th September, 1980, Gaz. of P., 1980, Ext. Pt. II, pp. 1734-37.

