

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

BILL

further to amend the Telegraph Act, 1885

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Telegraph Act, 1885 (Act XIII of 1885), for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:

1. **Short title and commencement.**- (1) This Act may be called the Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2014.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Substitution of section 25-D; Act XIII of 1885.**- In the Telegraph Act 1885 (XIII of 1885), for section 25-D, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“25-D. Causing annoyance, intimidation and harassment.- (1) Any person, with or without concealing his telephone number or other forms of identity causing persistent annoyance, intimidation, fear, harassment or threats of harm to another person’s repute or body through obnoxious telephone calls, messages, or other communication shall be punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term extending up to three years or fine in excess of rupees twenty thousand or both.”

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

With the widespread use of telephones, both landlines and mobiles, and the Internet, there is a rising trend to repeatedly annoy and criminally intimidate, harass and threaten the innocent users of the electronic gadgets by making obnoxious calls and sending obnoxious or harassing messages and pictures. Such calls and messages often cause undue hardship to the user of telephone, mobile and the Internet. Such trends should not only be checked but dealt with by apprehending such ill-intending persons and also by suitably punishing them to keep good order in the society.

2. The Bill seeks to achieve the above-said objectives and to provide a reasonable deterrence in the society for undue interferences and intrusions into the others’ lives.

Sd/-

**MS. ASIYA NASIR,
Member, National Assembly**