

**AZAD GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
LAW, JUSTICE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT  
MUZAFFARABAD**

Dated the 21<sup>st</sup> June, 1997.

No. 282-289/LD/Leg/97. The following Act of the Assembly received the assent of the President on 20th June, 1997 is hereby published for general information:-

**(ACT VIII OF 1997)**

**AN  
ACT**

to provide for the prohibition of wasteful expenses on marriages and ceremonies

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the prohibition of wasteful expenses on marriages and ceremonies related thereto;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title, extend and commencement:-** (1) This Act, may be called Marriage (Prohibition of Wasteful Expenses) Act, 1997.
  - (2) It extends to the whole of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.
  - (3) It shall come into force at once.
2. **Definitions:-** In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context:-
  - (a) "Committee" means an Ehtesab Committee constituted under Section 6;
  - (b) "Government" means the Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir; and
  - (c) "Marriage" shall include all ceremonies, preceding and succeeding the formal wedding, whether religious or civil rituals such as nikah, rukhsati, walima, mehndi, rasmehina and other functions and celebration connected with marriage and related festivities.
3. **Prohibition of Ostentations celebrations:-** (1) Subject to sub-section (2), no person celebrating his marriage or the marriage of any other person shall:-
  - (a) decorate or cause to be decorated any house or building including any space appertaining thereto, street, road or other place whether owned by him or otherwise with lights or illumination;
  - (b) explode or allow any one to explode cracker or other explosive device including firing by fire-arms; or
  - (c) display or allow any one to display fire-works.(2) Nothing contained in sub-section (1) shall prohibit the use of such lights as are ordinarily necessary to lit the house or any other place being the site of marriage.

4. **Restriction on wasteful expenses:-** <sup>1</sup>[(1) No person celebrating his or the marriage of any other person shall serve or allow anyone to serve any meals or other edibles except one dish which means a curry, rice with bread and one sweet dish other than hot and cold soft drinks.”]
- (2) Nothing contained in sub-section (1) shall apply to the eating of meals within the house by the members of the family celebrating the marriage or the house guests.
- <sup>2</sup>[(5. The persons owing or running a hotel, restaurant, wedding hall, community centre or club being site of a marriage ceremony or any centre shall serve or allow anyone to serve only one dish as specified in sub-section (1) of Section 4.”]
6. **Committees for Prohibition of Wasteful Expenses on Marriage:-** The Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute an Ehtesab Committee for each sub-division or tehsil which shall, in accordance with the rules made under this Act, be responsible for implementation of the provisions of this Act.
7. **Offences:-** Whoever contravenes the provisions of Section 3 to 5, shall be guilty of an offence punishable with fine which shall be not less than one hundred thousand rupees and not more than three hundred thousand rupees.

---

<sup>1</sup> Subs. by the Marriage (Prohibition of Wasteful Expenses) (Amdt.) Act, 2016 (Act XX of 2016) dt. 09.02.2016. The original extract of subction (1) of Sec. 4 is reproduced as under:-

“(1) No person celebrating his or the marriage of any other person shall serve or allow any one to serve meals or other edibles to the persons participating in the marriage in a club, hotel, restaurant, wedding hall, community centre or any other public place except hot and cold soft drinks.”

<sup>2</sup> Subs. by Ibid. The original extract of Sec. 5 is reproduced as under:-

“5. **Application of the Act to hotels, restaurants, etc:-** No person owning or running a hotel, restaurant, wedding hall, community centre, or club being the site of a marriage ceremony or any caterer shall serve or allow any one to serve any meals or edibles to the persons participating in the marriage ceremony other than hot and cold soft drinks.”

8. **Cognizance of offences:-** No Court shall take cognizance of an offence under this Act except on a complaint in writing made by the Committee.
9. **Rules:-** The Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.
10. **Repeal:-** The Marriages (Prohibition of Wasteful Expenses) Ordinance, 1997 (Ordinance XIX of 1997) is hereby repealed.

Sd/- (Ifthikar Hussain Butt)  
Secretary  
Law, Justice and Parliamentary  
Affairs Department