

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

(1). The legal aid and justice authority established under the legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020 (Act XVI of 2020) shall provide legal assistance to victim of scheduled offences. In addition, the fund established under this Act shall also be utilized for legal assistance under this Act.

(2). In addition, on the legal assistant under sub-section (1), the special committee shall in consultation with the ministry of human rights, approve panels of advocates and volunteers in each district or, if necessary, in any tehsil, for the provision of legal, financial or other assistance either on pro bona or on fee basis, for which the fund under this Act and under the legal id and Justice Authority Act, 2020 (Act xvi of 2020) shall be utilized.

VICTIM AND WITNESS PROTECTION

1). In addition to the existing laws, victim and witness protection system may be established as prescribed in the rules notified by the ministry of law and justice and shall, with a view to carrying out the purposes of this Act and without generality of the aforesaid, include the following, namely:-

- I. Special security arrangement for witnesses and victims.**
- II. Concealment of identity.**
- III. Distance recording of testimonies through video- conferencing, audio- video links and by the use modem devices.**
- IV. Re-location of victims and witnesses.-**
- V. Provision of reasonable financial assistance.**
- VI. Compensation to legal heirs of protected victims and witnesses.**
- VII. Safe- houses, dar-ul- amans, etc.**
- VIII. Such other measures as may be necessary and ancillary.**

2). Till such time the rules envisaged in sub- section (1) are prescribed , provincial or ICT witness protection laws as the case may be, shall be applicable to both victims and witnesses under this Act, mutatis mutandis.

INDEPENDENT SUPPORT ADVISERS

- 1) If so, determined by the anti-rape crisis cell, an independent support adviser shall accompany the victim during Court proceedings, in order to reduce the risk of duress, victimization of any nature, or any adversity afflicted or likely to be afflicted upon the victim.**
- 2) The special committee, in consultation with the ministry of human rights, shall prepare a list of independent support advisers at district or tehsil levels.**
- 3) For the purposes of sub-section (2), the special committee shall, in consultation with the ministry of human rights, enlist a civil society or a nongovernmental organization, whose members or nominees may act as independent support advisers.**
- 4) An independent support adviser shall be a person having skills to deal with victims of scheduled offences, who may be a psychologist, or a doctor, or a lawyer, or a para-legal, or a lady-health worker, or a social worker, or a person who is a member or nominee of a civil society or a non-governmental organization enlisted under sub-section (3).**

Thank You

PRESENTATION BY MR. AFZAL HUSSAIN TALPUR

(ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER)

