

ZULFIQAR AHMAD

Amendments to NAB laws being considered: Farogh

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Dr Farogh Naseem on Wednesday said that amendments in National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws are being considered in order to further strengthen the law.

Speaking at a presser along with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting Firdous Ashiq Awan here, he said that after the amendment in NAB law, the power of bail will be granted to the trial court. Besides, he said, it will be ensured that nobody could abuse the plea bargain or voluntary return options.

He said that Law Ministry has drafted a total of twenty-two laws over the last one year aimed at ensuring speedy justice to the people and enhance the efficiency of the judicial system.

Sharing the details of the one year performance of the Law Ministry, he said that seven of the bills have already been passed whilst the remaining seven to eight are before the standing committees or the National Assembly for passage. He added, "We also introduced eight ordinances."

The minister said that the standing committee on law has also approved the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill which will ensure speedy trial of civil cases. He said that the cases which earlier used to consume thirty to forty years will now be settled in a matter of one or one-and-a-half-year under this bill.

He said that the government has also formulated a bill which will ensure issuance of succession certificate to the people in a matter of fifteen days.

He said the Whistleblower Act envisages reward of 20 per cent for those who would help recover illegal wealth. He said under this act, the name of information provider will be kept secret. He said the Women Protection Bill will ensure rights of women in heritance. The minister said that there is also a Legal Aid and Justice Authority Bill, which will provide free legal aid to the poor people including women and children. He said the Mutual Legal Assistance Bill will regulate the procedure for rendering and soliciting mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

Naseem said that Pakistan Code envisaging eight hundred and forty eight laws has been uploaded on the website of the Law Ministry and the people now can easily access it. He said this is a first step towards provision of justice to the people at their doorsteps.

He said an application has also been prepared which will contain the archives of the last seventy-two years.

Firdous Ashiq Awan said the people had voted the PTI to power to break the status quo and bring change in their lives. She said the Law Ministry introduced the law reforms in line with the requirements of the nation.