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**AZAD GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
Law, Justice, Parliamentary Affairs and Human Rights Department

**'MUZAFFARABAD'**  
Dated: 31.05.2024

No. LD/Legis./Ord./27-41/2024. The following Ordinance made by the President on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2024, is hereby published for general information.

**[Ordinance II of 2024]**

**An**

**Ordinance**

further to amend the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Ehtesab Bureau Act, 2001

**Whereas**, it is expedient further to amend the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Ehtesab Bureau Act, 2001 (Act I of 2001), in the manner hereinafter appearing;

**And Whereas**, the Legislative Assembly is not in session and the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action;

**Now, therefore**, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-Article (1) of Article 41 of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution, 1974, the President is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance:-

1. **Short title and Commencement.**- (1) This Ordinance may be called the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Ehtesab Bureau (Eighth Amendment) Ordinance, 2024.

- (2) It shall come into force at once.
2. **Amendment of Section 4, Act I of 2001.**- In the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Ehtesab Bureau Act, 2001 (Act 1 of 2001), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in Section 4, after clause (f) a new clause (ff) shall be added as under:-
- “(ff) “Competent Authority” means in case of.-
- (i) Government employee, the concerned Secretary;
  - (ii) others, Secretaries, Public Office Holders including Ministers and Ex-Ministers, the concerned Minister; and
  - (iii) Ex-Prime Ministers and Ex-Presidents, the Government as mentioned in Article 12(2) of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution, 1974.”
3. **Amendment of Section 21, Act I of 2001.**- In the said Act, in Section 21, following amendments shall be made:-
- (i) Clause (a) of sub-section (2) shall be substituted as under:-
    - “(a) a reference received from the competent Authority.”
  - (ii) sub-section (5) shall be substituted as under:-
    - “(5) The Chairman shall, in case the accused person does not voluntarily or on summoning by Ehtesab Bureau avoids or refuses to appear or co-operate or furnish the requisite record or information required to complete the inquiry or investigation, as the case may be, have the power to direct that the accused be arrested in order to fulfill the purpose of expeditious completion of inquiry or investigation.”; and
  - (iii) Sub-section (6) shall be substituted as under:-
    - “(6) An Inquiry or Investigation under this Act, shall be completed as expeditiously as possible:

Provided that cases which have already been consigned to record due to lapse of one year time, the Chairman may on solid reason extend the period of an Inquiry, Investigation or may order to conduct a fresh Inquiry or Investigation up to such extent as he may deem necessary.”

4. **Amendment of Section 27, Act I of 2001.-** In the said Act, sub-section (1) of Section 27 shall be substituted as under:-

“(1) the Chairman shall have the power, at any stage of the investigation under this Act, to direct that the accused, if not already arrested, shall be arrested.”

**-sd-**

**President**

**Azad Jammu and Kashmir**

**Ch. Muhammad Nawaz**

Deputy Secretary (Legislation)

No.9201-9300 /P&S/2024

Dated: 31.05.2024

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