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Pak MP tables
bills against
conversion and
child marriage

Islamabad: A Hindu lawmaker from Prime Minister Imran Khan's party has moved two bills in Parliament seeking enhancement of punishment for those involved in forced conversion and for making child marriage a cognisable offence, amid the nationwide outrage over the alleged forced conversion of two teenage girls from the minority community.

Ramesh Kumar Vankwani from the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) submitted Child Marriage Restraint Act (Amendment) Bill 2019 and the Criminal Law (Protection of Minorities) Act 2019 in National Assembly on Tuesday. Besides Vankwani, PTI legislators Lal Malhi and Shunila Ruth. PML-N lawmaker Dr Darshan and PPP Ramesh Lal signed the resolution.

The bills, moved in the wake of alleged kidnapping of two Hindu girls and their forced conversion to Islam, were accompanied by a resolution with the support of minority lawmakers from all major political parties condemning such incidents. The five-point resolution called for immediate passage of the bill against forced conversions, which had been unanimously passed by the Sindh Assembly in 2016 and then reverted due to pressure of extremist elements, from all the legislatures. Through the resolution, the lawmakers also demanded strict action against the culprits including controversial religious figures who are involved in forced conversions. pn