

Bahrain's MPs warn govt of no-trust vote

Khaleej Times - 16 November, 2007

Bahrain parliament has warned of activating vote of no confidence against the government if the cabinet continues with its approach of delaying bills and proposals approved by MPs.

MPs called upon the prime minister to assign his deputies to take part in important session.

In an extraordinary session held on Wednesday, parliamentarians demanded explanation from the government for the delay in returning back proposal of laws approved by the parliament as well as not responding to their suggestions.

According to the constitution, MPs have the right to propose new and amend existing laws and when they win majority of votes, then they are referred to the government and the later is obliged to draft them in a legal manner and return back without changes as draft laws.

The Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdulaziz Al Fadhel defended the government by saying that 48 out of 58 proposal of laws, were referred to the legislation authority at the end of the first term (July-2006) and 19 were referred recently. He said that the government could not send draft laws without studying them to avoid promoting weak and unconstitutional laws.

MP Mohammed Al Jamri agreed that MPs lack legislation skills that enable them to draft proposals in legal manners, but blamed the low budget of the parliament that stop the administration of recruiting more legal experts and advisers to help deputies.

MP Abdullah Al Aali dismissed Al Fadhel's explanation and said that only 19 of 58 proposals of laws were referred back to the parliament.

"We cannot rush in drafting laws as the government studies them carefully and include its opinions before referring them back to MPs, but in the coming days 10 draft laws will be submitted" Fadhel said. The MPs also suggested writing a letter to His Majesty King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa complaining of the poor cooperation of the government.

The Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa explained that proposal of laws were drafted by the Legal Affairs Directorate in three months and within 45 days the directorate writes the views of the government about these bills.