

AS INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA

Bill No. 92 of 2019

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019

By

SHRI RAVI KISHAN, M.P.

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BILL

further to amend the Constitution of India.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventieth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2019.

Short title.

2. In the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution, entries 3 to 22 shall be re-numbered as entries 4 to 23, respectively, and before entry 4 as so re-numbered, the following entry shall
5 be inserted, namely:—

Amendment
of the Eighth
Schedule.

"3. Bhojpuri."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Bhojpuri language which originated in the Gangetic plains of India is a very old and rich language having its origin in the Sanskrit language. Bhojpuri is the mother tongue of a large number of people residing in Uttar Pradesh, Western Bihar, Jharkhand and some parts of Madhya Pradesh as well as in several other countries. In Mauritius, this language is spoken by a large number of people. It is estimated that around one hundred forty million people speak Bhojpuri. Bhojpuri films are very popular in the country and abroad and have deep impact on the Hindi film industry.

Bhojpuri language has a rich literature and cultural heritage. The great scholar Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityayan wrote some of his work in Bhojpuri. There have been some other eminent writers of Bhojpuri like Viveki Rai and Bhikhari Thakur, who is popularly known as the “Shakespeare of Bhojpuri”. Some other eminent writers of Hindi such as Bhartendu Harishchandra, Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi and Munshi Premchand were deeply influenced by Bhojpuri literature. Bhojpuri language and its literature is gaining new heights because of the efforts made by various scholars.

Many personalities with Bhojpuri background have achieved highest positions in the country. Various International Conferences have been organized to promote Bhojpuri. At present Indira Gandhi National Open University is planning to start a certificate course in Bhojpuri language. Recently, the Bhojpuri study centre had been established in Banaras Hindu University to propagate and develop the Bhojpuri language. In Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, movements have been initiated to give Bhojpuri language its due place.

But it is unfortunate that the “Bhojpuri” language is yet to find a place in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

For the promotion of literacy and the development of this language, it is necessary that this language be included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
June 6, 2019.

RAVI KISHAN

ANNEXURE

EXTRACT FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

EIGHTH SCHEDULE

[Articles 344(1) and 351]

Languages

1. Assamese.
2. Bengali.
3. Bodo.
4. Dogri.
- 5 Gujarati.
6. Hindi.
7. Kannada.
8. Kashmiri.
9. Konkani.
10. Maithili.
11. Malayalam.
12. Manipuri.
13. Marathi.
14. Nepali.
15. Oriya.
16. Punjabi.
17. Sanskrit.
18. Santhali.
19. Sindhi.
20. Tamil.
21. Telugu.
22. Urdu.

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