

Bill No. 159 of 2022

THE CONDUCTING OF UNION GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS IN
ALL EIGHTH SCHEDULE LANGUAGES BILL, 2022

By

SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR, M.P.

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BILL

*to provide for conduction of all Union Government examination in all the languages
included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution and
for matters connected therewith.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-third Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Conducting of Union Government Examinations in all Eighth Schedule Languages Act, 2022.

Short title,
extent and
commencement.

5 (2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall come into force on such date, as the Union Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “exams” means all recruitment exams conducted by Union Government through its recruitment commissions and other such agencies;

(b) “recruitment commission” includes Union Public Service Commission, Railway Recruitment Board, Public Sector Undertakings, Public Sector Banks, Institute of Banking Personnel Selection, Reserve Bank of India, Staff Selection Commission and any other national agency responsible for conducting of examination for the posts and services under the Union Government; and 5

(c) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

(d) “Union Government” means Government of India and its Departments, undertakings, recruitment commission and agencies. 10

Conduct of Examination by recruitment commissions and agencies in all the Eighth Schedule Languages.

3. It shall be the responsibility of the Central Government to ensure that all examinations being conducted by the recruitment commissions and such other agencies for the services and posts under the Union Government in all the languages included in the eighth schedule to the Constitution in such manner as may be prescribed. 15

Power to remove difficulties.

4. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order, published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to be necessary for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no order shall be made under this section after the expiry of two years from the commencement of this Act. 20

(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.

Power to make rules.

5. (1) The Central Government, may by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act. 25

(2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both the Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule. 30

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

India is home to different languages where we enrich rich linguistic plurality. According to 2011 Census, there are total of 121 languages and 270 Mother tongues while Ethnologue counts it to be 454. The survey recently conducted by People's Linguistic Survey of India (PLSI) found that 780 languages in India. So this gives a clear picture of how India is linguistically diverse as a country. Majority of Indian young population aspires to be Government servants ranging from All India Services, Group A, Group B and some even Group C and Group D posts etc. The option of facing the Union Government exams only in English and Hindi language is acting as a barrier to once dream and aspiration especially one who is more comfortable in his/her native language. This has serious disadvantage to students who did not study in English medium or not from Hindi speaking States. This Bill tries to create more opportunity to non-hindi speaking States and persons who studied in medium of instruction other than Hindi and English such as Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Marathi, Odia etc. Adoption of technology and effort of Government of India in translation right from Technology Development for Indian Languages in 1991 to as per the recommendation of National Knowledge Commission (NKC), Government of India launched National Translation Mission (NTM) in 2008. Since then NTM is collaborating with various institutes, universities private publishers etc. by providing academic and financial assistance for bringing out translations of pedagogic in Indian languages in order to reach out to the section of students with limited English knowledge.

With application of technology it shall be easier to conduct Union Government exams in all eighth schedule languages because 22 major Indian languages are listed in the eighth schedule of the Constitution of India and they are spoken by more than 96% of the total population. This is not new as recruitment to junior level posts in the Indian Railways is done through a Computer Based Test by 21 Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) located all over the Country. Where, the question paper for the RRB competitive examinations is objective type with multiple choices, in that addition to English question papers are set in 15 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. Likewise Common Recruitment Process of Regional Rural Banks where online Main Examinations of Officers Scale I and Office Assistants (Multipurpose), the candidates are provided with an option to choose the medium of examination from the list of 13 regional languages, relevant to the State/UT, in addition to Hindi and English.

In Civil Services (Mains) Examination conducted by UPSC, the candidate has the option to write his/her answers in any regional language, except in case of language and literature paper, but the question paper is framed in only Hindi and English. The thing is that candidates are ready to take up the exams in their native language but still option of only providing Hindi and English make some to struggle but many give up the dream to join the Government services.

The competitive exams for recruitment to posts in Union Government, Central Public Sector Undertakings, Indian Railways, Defence services and nationalised banks etc. are still conducted in only Hindi and English shall be hereafter conducted in all eighth schedule language. This indicates setting/framing questions and medium for descriptive papers for

all entry level and different stages of the Union Government exams shall be in all eighth schedule languages which replace the option of having only Hindi and English. This promotes inclusivity and provides equal and fair opportunity to aspirants to the person who did not study in English medium and from all States especially non-Hindi speaking States.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
4 July, 2022.

DHANUSH M. KUMAR

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for the Union Government to conduct examinations being conducted by Union Public Service Commission and other agencies in all the languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

The Bill, therefore, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is likely to involve a recurring expenditure of about rupees one hundred crore per annum.

No non-recurring expenditure is likely to be involved.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 5 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Bill. As the rules will relate to matters of detail only, the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

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(Shri Dhanush M. Kumar, M.P.)