

Bill No. 195 of 2024

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2024

By

DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY, M.P.

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BILL

further to amend the Constitution of India.

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

1. This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2024.

Short title.

2. In the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution, the existing entries 17 to 22 shall be re-numbered as entries from 18 to 23, respectively, and before entry 18 as so renumbered, the following entry shall be inserted, namely:

Amendment of
the Eighth
Schedule.

“17. Rajbanshi.”

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Language is indicative of the history, culture, people, system of governance, ecology, politics etc. of a region. Rajbanshi is member of the Bengali-Assamese branch of the Indo-Aryan language family. Rajbonshi/Rajbashi language is spoken by two crore people spread over West Bengal, Assam, Northern Bihar, Western Meghalaya in India and neighbouring countries of Bangladesh (Northern Region), Nepal (Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari districts) and plains areas of Bhutan. Other names of the Rajbanshi language are Kamtapuri, Rajbanga, Rajbansi, Rajbongshi, Goalpariya and Tappuri. The Rajbanshi language has a complete grammar. The main dialects are Western Rajbanshi, Central Rajbanshi, Eastern Rajbanshi and the dialect of the Rajbanshi of the hills, also known as Koch language. Rajbanshi is written with the Devnagari alphabet. It is taught in primary schools and used in literature, newspapers and other media.

Rajbanshi language, while being historically and traditionally very rich, is subjected to gross neglect at the national level. This poses a risk of the language eventually losing its existence.

There have been persistent demands from the Rajbanshi-speaking people for inclusion of the Rajbanshi language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

Therefore, in view of the above, in order to protect, promote and preserve the sanctity of Rajbanshi language and to protect the culture and the traditions of the speakers of this language, and also taking into consideration the importance of this language, it is necessary that Rajbanshi language be given due recognition by including it in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
July 15, 2024

JAYANTA KUMAR ROY

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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(Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy, M.P.)