

Bill No. 40 of 2019

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019

By

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH 'SIGRIWAL', 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,—

Amendment
of the Eighth
Schedule.

5 (i) existing entries 3 to 9 shall be re-numbered as entries 4 to 10, respectively, and before entry 4 as so re-numbered, the following entry shall be inserted, namely:—

"3. Bhojpuri.";

(ii) after entry 10 as so re-numbered, the following entry shall be inserted, namely:—

"11. Magahi.";

(iii) entries 10 to 22 shall be re-numbered as entries 12 to 24, respectively.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Language is not only a medium of communication but also a sign of respect. Language also reflects on the history, culture, people, system of governance, ecology, politics, etc. 'Bhojpuri' language is also known as Bhojpuri, Bihari, Deswali and Khotla and is a member of the Bihari group of the Indo-Aryan branch of the Indo-European language family and is closely related to Magahi and Maithili languages.

Bhojpuri language is spoken in many parts of north-central and eastern regions of this country. It is particularly spoken in the western part of the State of Bihar, north-western part of Jharkhand and the Purvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh. Many Bhojpuri magazines and newspapers are published in the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Bhojpuri language is spoken by over 40 million people in the country. As per the Census 2001, a total of 3,30,99,497 persons in the country have mentioned Bhojpuri as their Mother Tongue.

The prosperity of a society is earmarked by its linguistic heritage. If one goes through the history of Bhojpuri language, it dates back to seventh century. Due to a long history of emigration from the Bhojpuri regions, this language has spread over all continents of the world. It is also one of the national languages of Fiji spoken as 'Fiji Hindi'.

Bhojpuri culture is popular even in countries like Nepal, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Thailand, England and Greece. In about twenty countries across the world, fifteen to sixty-five per cent. of the population is Bhojpuri speaking. In Nepal, Bhojpuri is spoken by over two million people. Bhojpuri is also spoken by over four lakh people in Mauritius.

Variants of Bhojpuri are spoken by descendants of Bhojpuri-speaking plantation workers in several countries like Guyana, Suriname, Fiji, Trinidad and Tobago.

In addition to Bhojpuri, 'Magahi' is one of the prominent language spoken by millions in the eastern part of India specially in various districts of the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal. The language carries the rich cultural heritage and traditions of the people residing in these areas. Research has shown that it is being spoken since Mauryan era. Because of onslaught of English and *Khari Boli*, the future of this language appears to be flattened. It is, therefore, the duty of the Government to protect this language, being an important part of our heritage.

In view of above, in order to promote, integrate and empower 'Bhojpuri' and 'Magahi' languages and to protect the culture and traditions of the speakers of these languages and also taking into consideration importance of these languages, it is necessary that these languages be given their due recognition by including them in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
June 4, 2019.

JANARDAN SINGH 'SIGRIWAL'

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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(Shri Janardan Singh 'Sigriwal', M.P.)