

Bill No. 31 of 2022

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

By

SHRI JAMYANG TSERING NAMGYAL, M.P.

A

BILL

further to amend the Constitution of India.

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

1. This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2022.

Short title.

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

Amendment
of the Eighth
Schedule.

“3. Bhoti.”

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Language is not only a medium of communication, but also a sign of respect. It reflects the history, culture, people, system of governance, ecology, politics etc. 'Bhoti' is a mass language; the language of the people who have struggled for centuries, the language of the Himalayans that has blessed and bestowed the world with wisdom and prosperity, the language of the saints and poets, the language of the hills and valleys which have treasured the beauties of the nature, the language which unites people by heart and mind, the language of peace and compassion.

The Bhoti script was developed by Thomi Sambhota in the 7th century by modifying the four vowels and thirty consonants of the Devanagari script and Panini Grammar written in Sanskrit. Bhoti has a rich literature in different fields such as Medicines, Architecture, Astrology, Music, Arts, Dance, Drama, Yoga, Philosophy, Tantra, Poetry and Grammar. The collection of the rich literary treasure of the famous "Nalanda Parampara" along with Buddha's teachings compiled in the Tripitaka and Tantra is available today only in the Bhoti language in their original form.

Bhoti is dominantly spoken by the largest number of people in the entire Himalayan region with several contiguous geographical zones having its own script and literature. It is used among people of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. The glory and grace of this language is not only confined to the Himalayan region of India but also extended to Bhutan, Nepal, Tibet, China, Mongolia and Pakistan. This language is a symbol of "Unity in Diversity". People from different religions, regions, cultures and countries are using this language. It is also in the interest of the national security of our country.

Bhoti is recognized as one of the official languages with its synonymous names in six States of India viz. the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh.

Being an ancient language of culture and heritage, Bhoti is also a resource language for modernization. Developed in the 7th Century, it retains the ancient Indian heritage containing all requisites. Even in contemporary time different schools, colleges and universities throughout the world are imparting education in and for Bhoti language. All India Radio broadcasts its news and other programmes in Bhoti through its different stations such as Leh, Shimla, Gangtok, Karshang Darjeeling, Tawang and Delhi. More than fifteen newspapers and magazines are available in this language and nearly 7000 monasteries of the Himalayan region follow this language in their practices and functions.

In the era of globalization and liberalization, the Himalayan region is more vulnerable and fragile to the economic, political, ecological and cultural forces from outside of the harsh and aggressive world. Language is an important agent of connecting people and continuity of culture. With the advancement of the harsh and hostile modern civilization and anti-national forces, the language and culture of the Himalayan region is disappearing, declining and getting degenerated very fast, which was developed over centuries. It reflects the traditional wisdom and technology to live in harmony with Nature. The modern civilization is preaching these peace-loving people to conquer over Nature, which results in irreparable destructions and calamities.

The majority of the people who use this language practice Mahayana Buddhism for two reasons, although it is a secular language. First, Bhoti is a systematic, scientific and grammatically perfect language to be used, and second, it is rich with Mahayani culture and literature in the Himalayan regions.

On 22nd May 1995 approximately 49 Members of our Parliament belonging to different political parties had submitted a memorandum to Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, the then Prime Minister of India, appealing for the inclusion of Bhoti language in the 8th Schedule.

In view of above, in order to protect, promote and preserve the sanctity of Bhoti 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 Bhoti be given due recognition by including it in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution.

Hence, this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
7 February, 2022

JAMYANG TSERING NAMGYAL

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.

*

*

*

*

*

LOK SABHA

A

BILL

further to amend the Constitution of India.

.

(Shri Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, M.P.)