As introduced in the Rajya Sabha
on 9th December, 2022

Bill No. LX of 2022

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

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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:—

Short title and commencement.

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

(*2*) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notificaton in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Amendment of Eighth Schedule.

2. In the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution—

(*a*) entry 22 shall be re-numbered as entry 23; and

(*b*) before entry "23" as so re-numbered, the entry "22. Tulu." shall be inserted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Tulu is a Dravidian language which is spoken by a large number of people living in the two southern coastal districts of Karnataka and Kasaragod district of Kerala. As per the latest census, there are 18,46,427 native speakers of the Tulu language. Tulu is a rich language with a great cultural tradition that dates back to the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Many Linguists including S.U. Panniyadi, L.V. Ramaswami Iyer and P.S. Subrahmanya stated that Tulu is one of the oldest Languages in the Dravidian family which split autonomously from its Proto-Dravidian roots nearly 2,000 years ago. The famous linguist Robert Caldwell also conducted a detailed study of the Tulu language and called it one of the most developed Dravidian languages. Even though the Tulu language has been generating much enthusiasm amongs linguists, Tulu is the only 'developed language' that has not yet received official recognition. The language is now struggling to preserve its separate identity and rich cultural heritage. The inclusion of Tulu into the Eighth Schedule to the Indian Constitution shall certainly enhance the status of the language and shall place it on equal footing with other official languages.

The demand to include Tulu in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution has a long history of peaceful campaigns and deliberations. Yet, the demand is continuously neglected, while other languages with a smaller number of speakers are already included in the Eighth Schedule. Hence, the demand for the recognition of Tulu as an official language reflects the genuine concern of the native people, their cry for denial of justice and their struggle for equality. Apart from that, article 29 of the Constitution deals with the "Protection of interests of minorities" and clause (*1*) states that "*Any section of the Citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same."* Therefore, the official recognition of the Tulu language would be in the spirit of article 29 of the Constitution. In order to protect, preserve and uphold the rich linguistic culture and tradition of the Tulu-speaking people, it is critically important to recognise the Tulu language as an official language of the country and incorporate the same into the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

Hence, this Bill.

SANDOSH KUMAR P.

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. Odia.
16. Punjabi.
17. Sanskrit.
18. Santhali.
19. Sindhi.
20. Tamil.
21. Telugu.
22. Urdu.

RAJYA SABHA

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(*Shri Sandosh Kumar P., M.P.*)

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