

Bill No. XXXVIII of 2019

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019

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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 Constitution in article 343,—

Amendment
of article 343.

(i) for clause (1), the following shall be *substituted*, namely:—

Official
language of
the Union.

5 "(1) The official language of the Union in addition to Hindi in Devanagari script, shall be the languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule to this Constitution."

(ii) In sub-clause (a) of Clause (3), *after* the words "the English language," the words

10 "or the languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule to this Constitution or" shall be inserted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Constitution has provided for the development of all the regional languages in addition to Hindi. In many countries across the world, there are many languages which are recognized as the official national languages. Zimbabwe in South Africa has 11 official national languages.

India with a population of more than 130 crores has 454 living languages. India is one of the multi-lingual country and has got rich regional culture and traditions. As the nation is known for unity in diversity, it is all the more necessary that all the regional languages recognized in the Eighth Schedule should be encouraged, developed and used as the official language of the Union.

Hence this Bill.

VAIKO

ANNEXURE

EXTRACTS FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

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343. (1) The Official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script. Official language of the Union.

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(3) Notwithstanding anything in this article, Parliament may by law provide for the use, after the said period of fifteen years, of—

(a) the English language, or

(b) the Devanagari form of numerals,

for such purposes as may be specified in the law.

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RAJYA SABHA

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(Shri Vaiko, M.P.)