

Bill No. LII of 2015

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015

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BILL

further to amend the Constitution of India.

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2015.

Short title
and com-
mencement.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. In the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution,—

Amendment
of Eighth
Schedule.

(i) existing entries 3 to 16 shall be renumbered as entries 4 to 17 respectively, and before entry 4 as so renumbered, the following entry shall be inserted, namely:—

"3. Bhojpuri."

(ii) after entry 17 as so renumbered, the following entry shall be inserted, namely:—

"18. Rajasthani."

(iii) existing entries 17 to 22 shall be renumbered as entries 19 to 24, respectively.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Bhojpuri is an Indo-Aryan language which originated from Sanskrit and like Sanskrit it is also a scientific language. There are 40 million speakers of this language in India and 50 million worldwide. This is mainly spoken in north Indian states and on different islands of the world. In geographical & numerical terms Bhojpuri speakers are bigger than Maithili language which is part of eighth Schedule. Bhojpuri is a historical language which got its name from Bhojpur in Bihar. Bhojpur was founded by Bhoj Dynasty rulers who came from Ujjain during medieval times. The origin of the language in India is traced back to 700 AD which is now more than a thousand years old. World Bhojpuri Day is celebrated on the birth date of Sant Kabir Das. Bhojpuri is a very beautiful, simple and sweet language whose speakers numerically are no less than speakers of any other prominent language of India like Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi etc.

In addition to Bhojpuri, Rajasthani language is also amongst the Modern Indo-Aryan Languages. It is also a historical language which is spoken in India and worldwide by millions of people. There are various universities in Rajasthan where teaching arrangements have been made for this language. It has a glorious past of ancient literature which developed majorly during Asoka times of Saurashtra Prakrit. The development of Gujarati language, included in the Eight Schedule has also its close relation with Rajasthani language. All major ancient historical documents are available in this language and especially its medieval literature is extremely rich.

Both these historically rich languages have not grown to their true potential because of the neglect and lack of governmental support. Since they are not recognized by government and do not find place in Eighth Schedule with other languages as a result their reach is decreasing day by day. Also due to these reasons both languages have not been part of the Union Public Service Commission examination and millions of people who having good knowledge of the language are deprived from giving this examination. This neglect of historical languages is not good for our rich heritage and culture.

Therefore, it is proposed to recognise the rich historical and cultural significant of both these languages and immediate provisions should be made in the Eight Schedule of the Constitution to give them their respectful place what they have deserved from so long.

Hence this Bill.

VIVEK GUPTA

ANNEXURE

EXTRACT FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

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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.

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RAJYA SABHA

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(Shri Vivek Gupta, M.P.)