

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA  
ON THE 24TH APRIL, 2015

**Bill No. XIV 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. (i) The Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2015.

Short title, and  
commencement.

(ii) It shall come into force at once.

5 2. In the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution, existing entries 16 to 22 shall be re-numbered as entries 17 to 23 respectively and before entry 17 as so re-numbered, the following entry shall be inserted, namely:—

Amendment  
of Eighth  
Schedule.

"16. Pali."

#### STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Pali is one of the most ancient and richest languages of India. Sanskrit being the language of the elite classes comprising a small section of the population and Pali being simple of communicate, Lord Buddha consciously used the latter to preach his philosophical teachings to the masses. The entire Buddhist literature is in the Pali language. A significantly large number of people in India, particularly the Buddhists, speak Pali. The Constitution of India has recognized Buddhists as one of the five religious minorities in India. It is gratifying that India is known to the world as the Land of Buddha. In the context of grave challenges faced by the human society, the entire world is attracted towards the Buddha's teachings of peace and non-violence. Unfortunately, this precious language embodying the cultural and philosophical heritage of India has still not found a place in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. As a result, on the practical ground, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has removed Pali language as one of the optional subjects from the list of languages, closing the doors of the UPSC examination for the thousands of relatively disadvantages and backward candidates who used to offer Pali as an optional subject.

Hence this Bill.

DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR

*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. Maithli.
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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*(Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar, M.P.)*