

Bill No. XIV of 2023

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

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BILL

further to amend the Constitution of India.

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2023.

Short title and
Commencement.

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

2. In article 343 of the Constitution,—

Amendment of
article 343.

(i) in clause (1), for the words "The official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script.", the words "The Official language of the Union shall be the languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule to this Constitution." shall be substituted.

10 (ii) in sub-clause (a) in clause (3), after the words "the English language," the words "or the languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule to this Constitution, or" shall be inserted.

Amendment of article 344. **3.** In article 344 of the Constitution, sub clauses (a), (b) and (c) of clause (2) shall be omitted.

Amendment of article 348. **4.** In article 348 of the Constitution, in clause (1), after the words "shall be in the English Language.", the words "or the languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule to this Constitution." shall be inserted.

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Omission of article 151. **5.** In the Constitution, article 351 shall be omitted.

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, multiple languages are recognized as the official national languages.

Additionally, clause (3) of article 344 states that in making their recommendations under clause (2), the Commission on Official Language shall have due regard to the industrial, cultural and scientific advancement of India, and the just claims and the interests of persons belonging to the non-Hindi speaking areas in regard to the public services.

India with a population of more than 130 crore has more than 700 languages. India, with such diverse languages, should promote all the languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Hence, this Bill.

R. GIRIRAJAN.

ANNEXURE

EXTRACTS FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

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Official language of the Union.		343. (1) The Official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script. The form of numerals to be used for the official purposes of the Union shall be the international form of Indian numerals.			
	*		*		*
		(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.			
Commission and Committee of Parliament on official language.		344. *	*		*
	to—	(2) It shall be the duty of the Commission to make recommendations to the President as (a) the progressive use of the Hindi language for the official purposes of the Union; (b) restrictions on the use of the English language for all or any of the official purposes of the Union; (c) the language to be used for all or any of the purposes mentioned in article 348; (d) the form of numerals to be used for any one or more specified purposes of the Union; (e) any other matter referred to the Commission by the President as regards the official language of the Union and the language for communication between the Union and a State or between one State and another and their use.			
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Language to be used in the Supreme Court and in the High Courts and for Acts, Bills etc.		348. (1) Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this Part, until Parliament by law otherwise provides— (a) all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court, (b) the authoritative texts— (i) of all Bills to be introduced or amendments thereto to be moved in either House of Parliament or in the House or either House of the Legislature of a State; (ii) of all Acts passed by Parliament or the Legislature of a State and of all Ordinances promulgated by the President or the Governor of a State; and (iii) of all orders, rules, regulations and bye-laws issued under this Constitution or under any law made by Parliament or the Legislature of a State, shall be in the English language.			
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351. It shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language, to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India and to secure its enrichment by assimilating without interfering with its genius, the forms, style and expressions used in Hindustani and in the other languages of India specified in the Eighth Schedule, and by drawing, wherever necessary or desirable, for its vocabulary, primarily on Sanskrit and secondarily on other languages.

Directive for
development
of
the Hindi
language.

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RAJYA SABHA

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further to amend the Constitution of India.

(Shri R. Girirajan, M.P.)