

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA
ON 8TH DECEMBER, 2023

Bill No. LXVIII of 2022

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

A

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:—

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

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 the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution, the existing entries 4 to 22 shall be re-numbered as entries 5 to 23, respectively and before entry 5 as so re-numbered, the following entry shall be inserted, namely:—

Amendment
of Eighth
Schedule.

"4. Chhattisgarhi."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Constitution of India, through the Eighth Schedule, provides for the enrichment and promotion of languages. Along the same lines, there is a growing need and urgency to include Chhattisgarhi language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. Chhattisgarhi dialect has a history of its own. The grammar of the dialect, prepared by Hiralal Kavyopadhyay and edited and translated by George A.K. Grierson, was published in the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1890. A wide range of quality literature is also available in Chhattisgarhi and the same is continuously increasing. While Chhattisgarhi sub-dialects and some other languages are also prevalent in the State, the majority of the residents use Chhattisgarhi as their language and the same is also a language of communication with those speaking other regional dialects. Apart from Hindi, Chhattisgarhi has been adopted as a State Official Language and Chhattisgarhi Official Language Day is celebrated every year on 28th November in the State. Further, the State Government of Chhattisgarh, has also constituted Chhattisgarh Official Language Commission to preserve the tradition and for the development of overall linguistic diversity of the State according to the public sentiments and necessity. Chhattisgarhi is spoken not only by the 2.75 crore residents of Chhattisgarh, but also by residents in neighbouring districts in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana and Odisha. Addition of Chhattisgarhi language to the Eighth Schedule will help the language's development and will enable the 2.75 crore people of the State to take examinations for public service in Chhattisgarhi.

Hence this Bill.

RAJEEV SHUKLA

ANNEXURE

EXTRACT FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

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EIGHTH SCHEDULE

[*Article 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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(Shri Rajeev Shukla, M.P.)