

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA  
ON 5TH AUGUST, 2011

**Bill No. VII of 2011**

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2011

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BILL

*further to amend the Constitution of India.*

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2011.

Short title and  
commence-  
ment.

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

2. In the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, existing entries 3 to 22 shall be re-numbered as entries 4 to 23 respectively and before entry 4 as so re-numbered, the following entry shall be inserted, namely:—

Amendment  
of Eighth  
Schedule.

"3. Bhoti."

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Boti is spoken in the Himalayan regions of India from Laddakh to Tawang spreading through Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. The glory and grace of this language is not only confining to the Himalayan regions of India but also in Bhutan, Nepal, Tibet, China, Mongolia and Pakistan. People from different religions, regions cultures and countries are using this language which clearly shows that this language is a symbol of 'Unity in Diversity'. The right of language is a basic cultural right of the people and interlinked with their economy, culture, social system and political right. UNESCO recognizes the concept of language equality among all languages, irrespective of whether they have a script or not.

A nation marked by acute socio-cultural and linguistic diversity must lay down structures and processes that safeguard its unity and integrity. Keeping people out, denying them the basic human rights because of their region and language is unjustifiable and inhumane. As per 1991 census, even Assamese, Sindhi, Nepali, Konkani, Manipuri and Kashmiri speaking population were less than Bhoti speaking population. Bhoti is a language spoken by large number of people in the Himalayan regions and it is blessed and bestowed with wisdom and prosperity. It is a language of saint and poets, language of the hills and valleys, language which unites people by heart and mind, and also a language of peace and compassion. Five States including Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh have recognised the Bhoti language. The collection of Buddha's teachings, Tripitaka that comprises 108 volumes and Tantras is also available in Bhoti language.

Language is not only a medium of communication, but it also reflects the history, culture, people, relationship, system of governance, ecology, religion, politics, etc. Unfortunately, the Bhoti language has not been included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Moreover, for eliminating the feelings of alienation and indifference from the minds of people of the Himalayan regions, it is utmost necessary to include this language in the Eighth Schedule for want of oneness and national integration.

Hence this Bill.

TARUN VIJAY

*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. Oriya.
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 Tarun Vijay, M.P.)*