

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA
ON THE 11TH MARCH, 2016

Bill No. VI of 2016

THE TEACHING OF SANSKRIT AS A COMPULSORY LANGUAGE IN
SCHOOLS BILL, 2016

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BILL

to provide for the teaching of Sanskrit as a compulsory language in schools.

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Teaching of Sanskrit as a compulsory language in Schools Act, 2016.

Short title
and com-
mencement.

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

2. It shall be compulsory for every school to teach Sanskrit language as a compulsory subject up to class eighth.

Teaching of
Sanskrit as a
compulsory
language in
schools.

Expenditure
to be shared
by Central
and State
Governments.

3. The Central and the State Governments shall equally share the expenditure likely to be incurred on the implementation of the provisions of this Act.

Power to
make rules.

4. The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Sanskrit has been the language of India's soul. It is also said to be the Mother of all languages. Our *Rishi Munis* called it "*Devabhasha*" or the Language of the Gods. No one can truly understand and appreciate the spirit of Indian culture, if he does not know the Sanskrit language since all the major ancient texts are written in this language. Sri Aurobindo, while speaking of the importance of the Sanskrit language for India, says: "It is of the utmost value to a nation, a human group-soul to preserve its language and make it a strong and living cultural instrument. A nation, race or people which lose its language cannot live its whole life or real life".

Jawaharlal Nehru has also said "The past has gone and the present is with us and we work for the future. But I have no doubt that whatever the shape the future may take, one of the biggest, the strongest, and the most powerful and the most valued of our legacies, will be the Sanskrit language." Sanskrit is the only language which was spoken all over India in the past and it is the only language which can still unify the country.

The versatile literary creations in the Sanskrit language have evoked a deep sense of awe and wonder among scholars of the world. All the profound spiritual wisdom of India embodied in our ancient scriptures like *Vedas*, *Upanishadas*, *Bhagwad Gita*, *Puranas* and *Shastras* are expressed in the Sanskrit language. No wonder great Indian sages like Sri Aurobindo and Swami Vivekananda viewed Sanskrit language as the most perfect medium for expressing spiritual and philosophical ideas. But interestingly, even some of the modern scientists in the high-tech field of computers; have discovered that Sanskrit is the best language for the latest generation of Artificial Intelligence machine-systems. But the people of India are turning away from this treasure house of our ancient Indian culture and do not realize its value.

It is highly deplorable that such a language which has a vast literature is being neglected in its own country. It is high time now to make sincere efforts to increase awareness in the younger generation about the importance of Sanskrit. Teaching of Sanskrit as a compulsory language in Schools will enable the younger generation to enrich their personality and the noble traditions and thoughts of Indians and make better citizens.

Hence this Bill.

MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides that the total expenditure incurred on teaching of Sanskrit as a compulsory language in every school shall be borne equally by the Central and State Governments. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. Although, the exact amount of expenditure cannot be estimated, a recurring expenditure of twenty crore rupees per annum is likely to be involved.

No non-recurring expenditure is likely to be involved.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 4 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the provisions of the Act. As the rules will relate to matters of detail only, the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

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(Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, M.P.)