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PART IV—Bills introduced in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly; Reports of Select Committees presented or to be presented to that Assembly; and Bills published before introduction in that Assembly.

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

**LAW DEPARTMENT**

**Legislative**

**NOTIFICATION**

No. 260-L.—19th February, 2018.—The Governor having been pleased to order, under rule 66 of the Rules

of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, the publication of the following Bill, together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons which accompanies it, in the *Kolkata Gazette*, the Bill and the Statement of Objects and Reasons are accordingly hereby published for general information:—

**Bill No. 11 of 2018**

**THE WEST BENGAL OFFICIAL LANGUAGE  
(SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 2018.**

**A**

**BILL**

*to amend the West Bengal Official Language Act, 1961.*

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the West Bengal Official Language Act, 1961, for the purposes and in the manner hereinafter appearing;

West Ben. Act  
XXIV of 1961.

It is hereby enacted in the Sixty-ninth Year of the Republic of India, by the Legislature of West Bengal, as follows:—

Short title and  
commencement.

**1.** (1) This Act may be called the West Bengal Official Language (Second Amendment) Act, 2018.

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

*The West Bengal Official Language  
(Second Amendment) Bill, 2018.*

(Clauses 2-4.)

Amendment of section 2 of West Ben. Act XXIV of 1961.

2. In section 2 of the West Bengal Official Language Act, 1961 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in clause (aa),—

- (1) for the words “Urdu speaking people”, the words “Urdu speaking people or Kamtapuri speaking people or Rajbanshi speaking people or Kurmali speaking people” shall be substituted;
- (2) for the words “the Urdu Language”, the words “the Urdu Language, the Kamtapuri Language, the Rajbanshi Language, the Kurmali Language” shall be substituted.

Insertion of new section after section 3A.

3. After section 3A of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted:—

“Use of Kamtapuri, Rajbanshi and Kurmali Languages in rules and regulations, etc.

3AA. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 3, section 3A and section 3B, with effect from such date as the State Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, appoint in this behalf, the Kamtapuri, Rajbanshi and Kurmali Languages may, in addition to the Bengali Language, the Nepali Language, the Urdu Language, the Hindi Language, the Santhali Language, the Oriya Language and the Punjabi Language, be used for such—

- (a) rules, regulations and by-laws made by the State Government under the Constitution of India or any law made by the Parliament or the Legislature of West Bengal;
- (b) notifications or order issued by the State Government under the Constitution of India or any law made by the Parliament or the Legislature of West Bengal,
- (c) petitions and applications and replies thereof, in public offices;
- (d) documents received by public offices;
- (e) important Government advertisement, announcement to be published; and
- (f) important signposts to be exhibited,

as to apply in the Districts or Sub-division or Block or Municipality, as the case may be, where the population of Kamtapuri speaking people, Rajbanshi speaking people and Kurmali speaking people exceeds ten *per cent* as a whole or part of the District like Sub-division or Block, as may be notified by the State Government:

Provided that different dates may be appointed in respect of different matters referred to in the clauses (a) to (f).

*Explanation.*—For the purpose of this section, the words ‘law made by Parliament or the Legislature of West Bengal’ shall include any law made before or after the commencement of the Constitution of India by any Legislature or other competent authority in the territory of India having power to make such a law.”.

Amendment of section 4.

4. In section 4 of the principal Act, for the words, figure and letter “or section 3A”, the words, figures and letters “or section 3A or section 3AA” shall be substituted.

*The West Bengal Official Language  
(Second Amendment) Bill, 2018.*

(Clause 5.)

Amendment of  
section 5.

5. In section 5 of the principal Act, for the words “or the Nepali language”, the words “or the Nepali language or the Kamtapuri language or the Rajbanshi language or the Kurmali language” shall be substituted.

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.**

It is under active consideration of the State Government to declare Kamtapuri, Rajbanshi and Kurmali Languages to be used for the official purposes of the State of West Bengal.

2. It has been considered necessary and expedient to amend the West Bengal Official Language Act, 1961 (West Ben. Act XXIV of 1961), *inter alia*, for the following purposes:—

- (a) to declare Kamtapuri Language, Rajbanshi Language and Kurmali Language as Official Languages in the Districts, Sub-division, Block or Municipality, as the case may be, where the population of Kamtapuri or Rajbanshi or Kurmali speaking people exceeds ten *per cent* as a whole or part of the District like Sub-division or Block;
- (b) to insert a new section 3AA, with a view to specify the purposes for which the Kamtapuri, Rajbanshi and Kurmali Language may be used in addition to the Bengali Language, the Nepali Language, the Urdu Language, the Hindi Language, the Santhali Language, the Oriya Language and the Punjabi Language.

3. The authenticated text of Central and State Laws in Kamtapuri or Rajbanshi or Kurmali Language shall also be deemed to be authoritative text thereof in such language.

4. The Bill has been framed with the above objects in view.

5. There is no financial implication involved in giving effect to the provisions of the Bill.

KOLKATA,  
The 16th February, 2018.

MAMATA BANERJEE,  
Member-in-Charge.

By order of the Governor.

AKHILESH KUMAR PANDEY  
Secy.-in-Charge to the Govt. of West Bengal,  
Law Department.