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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. 187-L.— 2nd 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. 2 of 2018

**THE WEST BENGAL OFFICIAL LANGUAGE
(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 (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
(Amendment) Bill, 2018.*

(Clauses 2-5.)

Amendment of section 2 in 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), for the words “and the Punjabi Language”, the words “the Punjabi Language and the *Kurukh* Language” shall be substituted.

Insertion of new section after section 3B.

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

“Use of *Kurukh* Language in rules and regulations, etc.

3C. 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 *Kurukh* Language 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 *Kurukh* 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 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 3B”, the words, figures and letters “or section 3B or section 3C” shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 5.

5. In section 5 of the principal Act, for the words “or the Punjabi Language”, the words “or the Punjabi Language or the *Kurukh* Language” shall be substituted.

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

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

It is under active consideration of the State Government to declare *Kurukh* Language 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 *Kurukh* Language as Official Language in the Districts, Sub-division, Block or Municipality, as the case may be, where the population of *Kurukh* 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 3C, with a view to specify the purposes for which the *Kurukh* 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 *Kurukh* 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 1st 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.*