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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. 120-L.— 5th February, 2021.—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. 5 of 2021**

**THE WEST BENGAL OFFICIAL LANGUAGE  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021.**

**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 Seventy-second 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, 2021.

*The West Bengal Official Language  
(Amendment) Bill, 2021.*

(Clauses 2– 5.)

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

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 “Kurmali speaking people”, the words “Kurmali speaking people or Telegu speaking people” shall be substituted;

(2) for the words “the Kurmali Language”, the words “the Kurmali Language, the Telegu Language” shall be substituted.

Insertion of new section 3D after section 3C.

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

“Use of Telegu Language in rules and regulations etc.

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

as to apply in the District or Sub-division or Block or Municipality, as the case may be, where the population of Telegu 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 the 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 3C”, the words, figures and letters “or section 3C or section 3D” shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 5.

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

*The West Bengal Official Language  
(Amendment) Bill, 2021.*

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.**

It is considered necessary and expedient to amend the West Bengal Official Language Act, 1961 (West Ben. Act XXIV of 1961) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), in an effective and meticulous manner by making provision, *inter alia*, for—

- (i) including the Telegu Language in the list of the recognized Official Languages by amending the section 3 of the Act;
  - (ii) facilitating the Telegu speaking people of the local areas like District or Sub-division or Block or Municipality, as the case may be, where the population of Telegu 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 to use the Telegu language—
    - (a) for having copies of 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) for getting notification 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) for filing petitions and applications and replies thereof, in public offices;
    - (d) for having documents received by public offices;
    - (e) for receiving important Government advertisement, announcement to be published; and
    - (f) for viewing important signposts to be exhibited.
2. This Bill has been framed with the above objects in view.
  3. There is no financial implication involved in giving effect to the provisions of the Bill.

KOLKATA:

*The 4th February, 2021.*

MAMATA BANERJEE,

*Member-in-charge.*

By order of the Governor,

SUGATO MAJUMDAR,  
*Secy. to the Govt. of West Bengal,  
Law Department.*