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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. 433-L.—29th March, 2012.—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. 8 of 2012**

**THE WEST BENGAL OFFICIAL LANGUAGE  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2012.**

**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-third 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, 2012.

(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, 2012.*

(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),—

- (1) the words ‘not later than four years from the date of commencement of this Act’ shall be omitted;
- (2) in clause (a), for the words ‘the Bengali language and the Nepali language, and’, the words ‘the Bengali language and the Nepali language,’ shall be substituted;
- (3) after clause (a), the following clause shall be inserted:—
  - ‘(aa) in the Districts or Sub-division or Block or Municipality, as the case may be, where the population of Urdu speaking people exceeds ten *per cent*, the Bengali language and the Urdu language, and’;

Insertion of new  
section 3B after  
section 3A.

3. In the principal Act, after section 3A, the following section shall be inserted:—

**“3B. Use of Urdu language in rules and regulations.**—Notwithstanding anything contained in sections 3 and 3A, with effect from such date as the State Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, appoint in this behalf, the Urdu language may, in addition to the Bengali language and the Nepali 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 the 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 Urdu speaking people exceeds ten *per cent* as a whole or part of the District like Sub-division or Block;

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

*Explanation.*—For the purposes 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 and make such a law.”.

Amendment of  
section 4.

4. In section 4 of the principal Act, in clause (a), for the words, figure and letter, “or section 3A”, the words, figure and letter “or section 3A or section 3B” shall be substituted.

*The West Bengal Official Language  
(Amendment) Bill, 2012.*

*(Clause 5.)*

Amendment of  
section 5.

5. In section 5 of the principal Act, for the words “the Bengali language or the Nepali language”, the words “the Bengali language or the Nepali language or the Urdu language” shall be substituted.

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.**

The adoption of the Urdu language as one of the languages to be used for the official purpose of the State of West Bengal is the cry of the day.

2. Accordingly 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 Urdu as official language in respect of certain Districts where, the population of Urdu speaking people exceeds 10% as a whole or part of the District like Sub-division or Block;
- (b) to insert new section 3B with a view to specifying the purposes for which the Urdu language may be used in addition to the Bengali and the Nepali languages;
- (c) to specify that, the authoritative text of Central and State Laws in Urdu language shall also be deemed to be the authoritative text thereof in such languages.

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

4. No financial implication is envisaged in giving effect to the provisions of the Bill.

KOLKATA,  
*The 29th March, 2012.*

MAMATA BANERJEE,  
*Member-in-charge.*

By order of the Governor,

B. K. SRIVASTAVA,  
*Secy.-in-charge to the Govt. of West Bengal,  
Law Department.*