

THE ASSAM OFFICIAL LANGUAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

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BILL

further to amend the Assam Official Language Act, 1960.

Preamble

Whereas, it is expedient further to amend the Assam Official Language Act, 1960, hereinafter referred to as the principal Act, in the manner hereinafter appearing;

Act No.
XXXIII
of 1960

It is hereby enacted in the Seventy-fifth Year of the Republic of India, as follows: -

Short title,
extent and
commencement

1. (1) This Act may be called the Assam Official Language (Amendment) Act, 2024.
- (2) It shall have the like extent as the principal Act.
- (3) It shall come into force on such date and in such areas as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint in this behalf.

Insertion of
new section 5B

2. 2. In the principal Act, after section 5 A, the following new section 5B shall be inserted, namely: -
“5B. Without prejudice to the provisions contained in section 3, Manipuri Language shall be used as Associate Official Language for all or any of the Official purposes of the State of Assam as are specified in the Schedule-II in the Districts and Sub-divisions having substantial Manipuri population as may be declared by the State Government from time to time.”

Substitution of
SCHEDULE

3. In the principal Act, for the word “SCHEDULE” wherever it occurs the word, “SCHEDULE - I” shall be substituted.

Insertion of new
SCHEDULE - II

4. In the principal Act, after the existing SCHEDULE, the following new SCHEDULE - II shall be inserted, namely:-

“SCHEDULE - II

(See section 5 B)

- (1) Manipuri language shall be used as an Associate Official Language in four districts of the state namely, Cachar, Karimganj, Hailakandi and Hojai.
- (2) Entertaining applications in Manipuri presented by members of the public.
- (3) Receiving documents in Manipuri presented for registration with English copy as long as the use thereof is permissible for the official purposes of the Union under any law made by the Parliament in this behalf and thereafter Hindi in place of English or Assamese copy thereof.
- (4) Publication of :-
 - (i) all acts passed by the State Legislature in Manipuri ;
 - (ii) all Orders, Regulations, Rules and Bye-laws issued by the State Government under the Constitution of India or any law made by Parliament or the Legislature of the State in Manipuri.
- (5) Publication of Government advertisements in Manipuri.”

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CHECKED BY THE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT
ON 19.2.2024

Statement of Objects & Reasons

The salient feature of the Bill is to insert the section 5B in the Assam Official Language Act, 1960. As a substantial number of people living in the Barak Valley and other parts of the State speak the Manipuri language and there have been persistent demands to officially recognize their language, the proposed amendment will allow Manipuri language to be used as an Associate Official Language for all or any of the official purposes as are specified in the Schedule-II, in four Districts of the State, namely, Cachar, Karimganj, Hailakandi and Hojai.

Therefore, the Bill proposes to insert section 5B of the Assam Official Language Act, 1960.

Hence, the proposed amendment.



Chief Minister and Minister-in-Charge
Home & Political Department



Secretary,
Assam Legislative Assembly, Dispur

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

There is no financial involvement in the proposed Bill.

MEMORANDUM OF DELEGATED LEGISLATION

There is no delegation of legislative powers to the executive in the proposed Bill.

EXTRACT OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT AND THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT AS PER THE BILL

**Extract of the principal Act
(The Assam Official Language Act, 1960)**

The Bodo language as an associate official language

5A “Without prejudice to the provisions contained in Section 3, the Bodo Language shall be used as an Associate official Language for all or any of the Official purpose of the state of Assam as are specified in the Schedule, in the Districts and Subdivisions having substantial Bodo population as may be declared by the State Government from time to time.

**Proposed Amendment
(proposed insertion)**

“2. In the principal Act, after section 5A, the following new section 5B shall be inserted, namely: -

“5B. Without prejudice to the provisions contained in Section 3, Manipuri Language shall be used as Associate Official Language for all or any of the Official purposes of the State of Assam as are specified in the Schedule-II in the Districts and Sub-divisions having substantial Manipuri population as may be declared by the State Government from time to time.”

**SCHEDULE
(See Section 5A)**

- 1) Entertaining application in Bodo presented by members of the public.
- 2) Receiving documents in Bodo presented for registration with English copy as long as the use thereof is permissible for the official purposes of the Union under any law made by the Parliament on this behalf and thereafter Hindi in place of English or Assamese copy thereof.
- 3) Publication of :-
 - i) all Acts passed by the State Legislature in Bodo;
 - ii) all Orders, Regulations, Rules and Bye-laws issued by the State Government under the constitution of India or any law made by parliament or the Legislature of the State in Boro.
- 4) Publication of Government advertisements in Bodo.

In the principal Act, for the word “SCHEDULE” wherever it occurs the word, “SCHEDULE – I” shall be substituted.

In the principal Act, after the existing SCHEDULE, the following new SCHEDULE – II shall be inserted, namely:-

**“SCHEDULE-II
(See Section 5 B)**

- (1) Manipuri language shall be used as an Associate Official Language in four districts of the state namely, Cachar, Karimganj, Hailakandi and Hojai.
- (2) Entertaining applications in Manipuri presented by members of the public.
- (3) Receiving documents in Manipuri presented for registration with English copy as long as the use thereof is permissible for the official purposes of the Union under any law made by the Parliament in this behalf and thereafter Hindi in place of English or Assamese copy thereof.
- (4) Publication of :-
 - (i) all acts passed by the State Legislature in Manipuri ;
 - (ii) all Orders, Regulations, Rules and Bye-laws issued by the State Government under the Constitution of India or any law made by Parliament or the Legislature of the State in Manipuri.
- (5) Publication of Government advertisements in Manipuri.”