

Bill No. 1 of 1997

THE DELHI ADOPTION OF PUNJABI AS THE SECOND OFFICIAL LANGUAGE BILL, 1997

( As introduced in the Legislative Assembly  
of the National Capital Territory of Delhi  
on 10.1.1997 )

Bill No. 1 of 1997.

THE DELHI ADOPTION OF PUNJABI AS THE SECOND OFFICIAL LANGUAGE ACT, 1997

A  
BILL

to provide for the adoption of Punjabi in Gurmukhi script as the second official language to be used for official purposes in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Whereas it is expedient to provide for the adoption of Punjabi in Gurmukhi script as the second language to be used for official purposes of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Be it enacted by the Delhi Legislative Assembly in the Forty-sixth year of the Republic of India.

Short title,  
extent and  
commencement

1. (1) This Act may be called the Delhi Adoption of Punjabi as the second Official language Act, 1997.  
(2) It extends to the whole of Delhi.  
(3) It shall come into force on such date as the government of Delhi may be notification appoint..

Definitions

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires.
  - (a) "Assembly" means the Delhi Legislative Assembly.
  - (b) "Delhi" means the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
  - (c) "Government" means the government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
  - (d) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act under section 4.

3. Punjabi shall be used in the interest of Punjabi Speaking people as the second official language for the following provisions ;

- (1) All orders, rules, regulations and bye-laws issued by the Government.
- (2) Receipt and reply of Applications and Memorandums in Punjabi.
- (3) Acceptance of written documents in Punjabi by different government offices.
- (4) Publication of important rules, statements and notifications in Punjabi.
- (5) Release of government instructions, orders, reports of public importance.
- (6) Publication of important government advertisements in Punjabi.
- (7) Publication of Punjabi version of District Gazette.

Power to make  
Rules

- (1) The Government may by notification in the official Gazette make rules for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.
- (2) All rules made under this Act shall be laid as soon as may be after they have been made before the Assembly for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions and shall take effect upon the expiry of the said period of thirty days unless they are sooner approved with or without modifications or disapproved by the Assembly and where they are so approved, they shall take effect on such approval in the form in which they were laid or in such modified form, as the case may be, and where they are so disapproved, they shall be of no effect.

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

After partitioning of the country ,lakhs of displaced persons came to Delhi for shelter. This they had to do because staying in Punjab and North Western Frontier Province (NWFP) meant getting stabbed or shot dead. Due to the large-heartedness of the Government of India, a separate Ministry of Rehabilitation was created. This Ministry worked with a missionary zeal and helped the unfortunate refugees in providing affordable living accommodation and also allotted shops in newly developed markets. As a result of this unparalleled governmental effort, backed by their own initiative, they are today economically well settled and socially respected.

A substantial number of persons in Delhi speak Punjabi which is a rich language . But,their longing to have Punjabi as the Second Official language has not been fulfilled as yet. To achieve that objective this Bill has been introduced for enactment.



## FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

The implementation of the provision of this Act will entail no expenditure whatsoever. All this can be done by executive Orders. Further in the Delhi Administration , there are scores of employees who are well versed in the Punjabi Language". They can be assigned the duty to do the translation work. Therefore, the question of preparing estimates of the expenditure involved does not arise.

## MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 4 of the Bill empowers the Government of Delhi to make rules for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of the proposed enactment. The delegation of legislative powers is of a normal character.

Jag Pankh Chandra

14.3.95