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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

LAW DEPARTMENT

Legislative

West Bengal Act XXIV of 1961

THE WEST BENGAL OFFICIAL LANGUAGE ACT,
1961.

[*Passed by the West Bengal Legislature.*]

[Assent of the Governor was first published in the *Calcutta Gazette, Extraordinary*, of the 11th November, 1961.]

[11th November, 1961.]

An Act to provide for the adoption of the Bengali language as the language to be used for the official purposes of the State of West Bengal including purposes of legislation.

It is hereby enacted in the Twelfth Year of the Republic of India, by the Legislature of West Bengal, as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the West Bengal Official Language Act, 1961.

Short title
and extent.

(2) It extends to the whole of West Bengal.

2. With effect from such date, not later than two years from the date of commencement of this Act, as the State Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, appoint in this behalf,—

Language
or
languages
to be used
for official
purposes
of the
State.

(a) in the three hill subdivisions of the district of Darjeeling, namely, Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong, the Bengali language and the Nepali language, and

(b) elsewhere, the Bengali language,

shall be the language or languages to be used for the official purposes of the State of West Bengal referred to in

Price—Indian, 12 nP.; English, 3d.

(Section 3.)

article 345 of the Constitution of India, and different dates may be appointed for different official purposes or for different areas in West Bengal:

Provided that the issue of any such notification shall be without prejudice to—

- (i) the use of any language other than the Bengali language which is authorised by or under any law for the time being in force to be used for any purpose in any of the civil or criminal courts within the State of West Bengal, and
- (ii) the use of the English language in the examinations conducted by the Public Service Commission, West Bengal.

Bengali
language
to be used
in Bills,
etc.

3. With effect from such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint in this behalf, the Bengali language shall be the language to be used—

- (a) in Bills introduced in, and Acts passed by, the Legislature of West Bengal, Ordinances promulgated by the Governor of West Bengal under article 213 of the Constitution of India and rules, regulations and by-laws made by the State Government under the Constitution of India or under any law made by Parliament or the Legislature of West Bengal; and
- (b) in notifications or orders issued by the State Government under the Constitution of India or under any law made by Parliament or the Legislature of West Bengal:

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