



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOA

The Goa Official Language  
(Amendment) Bill, 1992

(Bill No. 13 of 1992)

(By Dr. K. G. Thalmi)

---

(To be introduced in the Legislative Assembly of Goa)

---

# The Goa Official Language (Amendment) Bill, 1992

(Bill No. 13 of 1992)

A

BILL

*to amend the Goa, Daman and Diu Official Language Act, 1986.*

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of Goa, in the Forty-third year of the Republic of India as follows: —

1. *Short title, extent and commencement.* — (1) This Act may be called the Goa Official Language (Amendment) Act, 1992.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Goa.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. In the Goa, Daman and Diu Official Language Act, 1987 (Act 5 of 1987) (hereinafter referred to as the Principal Act) in the long title and Preamble, the figure and words “, Daman and Diu” wherever they occur, shall be deleted.

3. *Amendment of Section 1.* — In Section 1 of the Principal Act, —

(i) In sub-section (1) the figure and words “, Daman and Diu” shall be deleted;

(ii) In sub-section (2), for the words “Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu”, the words “State of Goa” shall be substituted.

4. *Amendment of Section 2.* — In Section 2 of the Principal Act, —

(i) For clause (a), the following clause shall be substituted: —

(b) “Governor” means the Governor of the State of Goa appointed by the President under Article 155 of the Constitution.

(ii) In clause (b), the figure and words “Daman and Diu” shall be deleted and renumbered as clause (a).

(iii) In clause (e), for the figure and words “, Daman and Diu” shall be deleted.

(iv) Clause (f) shall be deleted.

5. *Amendment of Section 3.* — In section 3 of the Principal Act, —

(i) For the title; following shall be substituted: —

“3. Official Languages of the State of Goa.—”

(ii) For sub-section (1) the following shall be substituted: —

“With effect from such date as the Governor may, by notification, appoint, Marathi and Konkani languages shall, subject to provisions contained in Articles 345, 347 and 348 of the Constitution of India be the Official Languages for all or any of the Official purposes of the State of Goa and different dates may be appointed for different Official purposes”.

(iii) First and Second Proviso shall be deleted.

(iv) In the Third proviso the word “further” shall be deleted.

### Statement of Objects and Reasons

The Official Language Act, 1987 was enacted at the time when the State of Goa was an Union Territory and two other Districts Daman and Diu where the language in use was Gujarati. After grant of Statehood to Goa and consequent delinking of these two districts of Goa, the status granted to Gujarati has become irrelevant.

At the stage of passing of the Official Language Bill and on many occasions thereafter this Government promised that it shall not in manner discriminate against any language. Fears were expressed by people from all corners that Marathi language will be systematically and phasewise wiped out of the State of Goa. It has been now almost proved that intentions of the Government then were not clear. Lethargy and inactiveness of the Government to persuade Central Government to produce and telecast T. V. programmes in Marathi language by local Artist is only an example.

Recently in a writ petition the Panaji Bench of Bombay High Court has held that Marathi is also the regional language of Goa. The number of Marathi writers, readers, learners out numbers those of Konkani by a wide margin proving thereby that Marathi language is the language in use in this State. The interpretation of Official Language Act, 1987 by the High Court should not lead to further misconcepts especially in the minds of the Officer implementing the Act. Therefore it has now become mandatory to amend the Act.

The amendment proposes to give status of Official Language to Marathi.

### Financial Memorandum

There are no financial implications involved in this Bill.

Memorandum Regarding Delegated Legislation

Section 3 of the Act contemplates that the Governor may, by notification appoint such date on which the Marathi and Konkan languages shall be the Official Languages for all or any of the official purposes and he has been further empowered to appoint different dates for different official purposes.

This delegation is of normal character.

Panaji  
9TH JULY, 1992.

DR. KASHINATH JHALMI  
M. L. A.

Assembly Hall  
Panaji  
13th July, 1992.

M. M. NAIK  
Secretary to the Legislative  
Assembly of Goa

(Annexure to Bill No. 13 of 1992)

The Goa Official Language (Amendment) Bill, 1992

**The Goa Daman and Diu Official Language Bill, 1986**  
**Act No. 5 of 1987**

*to adopt the official language for official purposes of the Union territory of Goa, Daman and Diu.*

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of Goa, Daman and Diu in the Thirty-eighth year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title, extent and commencement.*— (1) This Act may be called the Goa, Daman and Diu Official Language Act, 1987.

(2) It extends to the whole of the Union territory of Goa, Daman and Diu.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. *Definitions.*— In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Union territory of Goa, Daman and Diu appointed by the President under article 239 of the Constitution;

(b) "Government" means the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu;

(c) "Konkani language" means Konkani language in Devanagari script;

(d) "notification" means a notification published in the Official Gazette;

(e) "Official Gazette" means the Official Gazette of the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu;

(f) "Union territory" means the Union territory of Goa, Daman and Diu.

(3) *Official language of the Union territory.*— (1) with effect from such date as the Administrator may, by notification, appoint, Konkani language shall, subject to the provisions contained in sections 34 and 35 of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 (Central Act 20 of 1963), be the official language for all or any of the official purposes of the Union territory, and different dates may be appointed for different official purposes:

Provided that the Administrator may, by a like notification, direct that in case of the Goa District, the Marathi language, and in the case of Daman and Diu Districts the Gujarati Language, shall also be used for all or any of the official purposes and different dates may be appointed for different official purposes.

Provided further that nothing contained in this sub-section shall be deemed to affect the use of the Marathi and Gujarati languages in educational, social or cultural fields:

Provided further that the Government shall not, in granting aid to any educational or cultural institution, discriminate against such institution only on the ground of language;

(2) Nothing contained in sub-section (1) shall preclude any person from submitting any representation for the redress of any grievances to any officer or authority of the Union territory in any of the languages used in the Union territory.

4. *Continued use of English language.*—Notwithstanding anything contained in section 3, the English language shall continue to be used in addition to the languages specified in that section for all or any of the official purposes of the Union territory.

5. *Laying of notification before Legislative Assembly.*—Every notification issued under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is issued, before the Legislative Assembly while it is in session for a total period of fourteen days which may be comprised in one session or in two successive sessions, and if before the expiry of the session in which it is so laid or the session immediately following, the Legislative Assembly agree in making any modification in the notification or agree that the notification should not be issued, the notification shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that notification.

Assembly Hall,  
Panaji,  
13th July, 1992.

M. M. NAIK  
Secretary to the Legislative  
Assembly of Goa.