

The Punjab Official Languages Act, 1960

(Punjab Act No.28 of 1960)

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An Act to declare the official languages of the Punjab State.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Punjab in the Eleventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

1. Short title, extent and commencement-(1) This Act may be called the Punjab Official Languages Act, 1960.
 - (2) It extends to the Hindi Region and the Punjab Region.
 - (3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-
 - (a) "Hindi" means Hindi in Devanagari script;
 - (b) "Punjabi" means Punjabi in Gurmukhi script;
 - (c) "State Government" means the Government of the State of Punjab;
 - (d) the expressions "Hindi Region" and "Punjabi Region" shall have the meaning assigned to them in the Punjab Regional Committee order, 1957.

3. Official language for Hindi and Punjabi Regions- (1) As from the second day of October, 1960 Hindi in the Hindi Region and Punjabi in the Punjabi Region shall be the official language for all purposes in the districts or parts thereof situated in these Regions except such purposes as are specifically excluded by the State Government from time to time by notification.
 - (2) The official language may be used for the purposes of all communications from the districts or parts thereof to the Commissioners, Heads of Departments and the State Government until the second day of October, 1962, and shall be used after that date.

4. Savings- Nothing in section 3 shall apply to,-

(a) the use of English, till the second day of October, 1962 by any Government servant who is using English as the official language immediately before the 28th September, 1960; or

(b) the use of Urdu, till the second day of October, 1962, by any Government servant not conversant with the official language immediately before the 28th September, 1960; or

(c) the use of language in courts subordinate to, or within the jurisdiction of, the High Court of Punjab.

5. Power to make rules- (1) The State Government may by notification make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) Every rule made under this section shall be laid as soon as may be after it is made before each House of the State Legislature while it is in session for a total period of ten successive sessions, and if before the expiry of the session in which it is so laid or the session immediately following, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

6. Repeal- (1) The Punjab Official Languages Ordinance, 1960 (Punjab Ordinance No.4 of 1960), is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the Punjab Official Languages.