

PARLIAMENT OF CEYLON

3rd Session 1958-59

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Tamil Language (Special Provisions) Act, No. 28 of 1958

Date of Assent : September 4, 1958

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L. D.—O. 28/57.

AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE USE OF THE TAMIL LANGUAGE AND TO PROVIDE FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL THERETO.

[Date of Assent : September 4, 1958]

WHEREAS the Sinhala language has been declared by the Official Language Act, No. 33 of 1956, to be the one official language of Ceylon :

And whereas it is expedient to make provision for the use of the Tamil language without conflicting with the provisions of the aforesaid Act :

Be it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and the House of Representatives of Ceylon in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

1. This Act may be cited as the Tamil Language (Special Provisions) Act, No. 28 of 1958.

Short title.

2. (1) A Tamil pupil in a Government school or an Assisted school shall be entitled to be instructed through the medium of the Tamil language in accordance with such regulations under the Education Ordinance, No. 31 of 1939, relating to the medium of instruction as are in force or may hereafter be brought into force.

Tamil language as a medium of instruction.

(2) When the Sinhala language is made a medium of instruction in the University of Ceylon, the Tamil language shall, in accordance with the provisions of the Ceylon University Ordinance, No. 20 of 1942, and of the Statutes, Acts and Regulations made thereunder, be made a medium of instruction in such University for students who, prior to their admission to such University, have been educated through the medium of the Tamil language.

3. A person educated through the medium of the Tamil language shall be entitled to be examined through such medium at any examination for the admission of persons to the Public Service, subject to the condition that he shall, according as regulations made under this Act in that behalf may require,—

Tamil language as a medium of examination for admission to the Public Service.

(a) have a sufficient knowledge of the official language of Ceylon, or

(b) acquire such knowledge within a specified time after admission to the Public Service :

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Provided that, when the Government is satisfied that there are sufficient facilities for the teaching of the Sinhala language in schools in which the Tamil language is a medium of instruction and that the annulment of clause (b) of the preceding provisions of this section will not cause undue hardship, provision may be made by regulation made under this Act that such clause shall cease to be in force.

Use of the
Tamil language
for correspon-
dence.

4. Correspondence between persons, other than officials in their official capacity, educated through the medium of the Tamil language and any official in his official capacity or between any local authority in the Northern or Eastern Province and any official in his official capacity may, as prescribed, be in the Tamil language.

Use of the
Tamil language
for prescribed
administrative
purposes in the
Northern and
Eastern
Provinces.

5. In the Northern and Eastern Provinces the Tamil language may be used for prescribed administrative purposes, in addition to the purposes for which that language may be used in accordance with the other provisions of this Act, without prejudice to the use of the official language of Ceylon in respect of those prescribed administrative purposes.

Regulations.

6. (1) The Minister may make regulations to give effect to the principles and provisions of this Act.

(2) No regulation made under sub-section (1) shall have effect until it is approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives and notification of such approval is published in the *Gazette*.

This Act to be
subject to
measures
adopted or to be
adopted under
the proviso to
section 2 of
Act No. 33 of
1956.

7. This Act shall have effect subject to such measures as may have been or may be adopted under the proviso to section 2 of the Official Language Act, No. 33 of 1956, during the period ending on the thirty-first day of December, 1960.

Interpretation.

8. In this Act unless the context otherwise requires—

“ Assisted school ” and “ Government school ” shall have the same meaning as in the Education Ordinance, No. 31 of 1939 ;

“ local authority ” means any Municipal Council, Urban Council, Town Council or Village Committee ;

“ official ” means the Governor-General, or any Minister, Parliamentary Secretary or officer of the Public Service ; and

“ prescribed ” means prescribed by regulation made under this Act.