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1. Introduction :

In accordance with the Government of Goa, the Directorate of Official Language was established in 2004 as an independent Department of Government of Goa and entrusted with the nodal responsibility for all matters relating to the progressive use of Konkani as the Official Language of the State of Goa.

As per the Government the Directorate adopted Konkani as the Official Language of the then Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu and accordingly the Goa, Daman and Diu Official Language Act 1987 (Act 5 of 1987) was enacted in pursuance of Section 34 of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 (Central Act 20 of 1963), Official Language Act 1987 which provides Konkani shall be the Official Language whereas, Marathi shall be used for all or any of the Official purposes.

The Act envisaged the continuance of the English language of for official purposes in addition to Konkani & Marathi languages.

2. Functions of the Directorate of Official Language :

Its main functions include, inter-alia, the following :

- i. Enhancing the efficacy of Official language the Department releases recurring grants in aid to Goa Konkani Akademi. The Goa Konkani Akademi was established by the Government of Goa in the year 1984.
- ii. Recurring Grants in aid to Gomantak Marathi Academy for promoting Marathi language. The Gomantak Marathi Academy is an autonomous, sovereign Institution and was registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, bearing registration No. 40/GOA 1987.
- iii. Recurring Grants in aid to Dalgado Konknni Akademi for promoting Konkani Language in Romi Script. Dalgado Konknni Akademi is an Institute registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 in the year 2005.
- iv. Nodal responsibility for all matters relating to the progressive use of Konkani as the Official Language of the State including imparting training to all State Government Employees, Publication of Books and other literature related thereto.
- v. Co-ordination in all matters relating to the progressive use of Konkani as the Official Language of the State, including preparation of terminologies, imparting training courses on electronic equipments (with standard script).
- vi. Matters relating to the Translation (Konkani/Marathi to English & vice-versa) from various bureaus.
- vii. Providing services; wherein Panel of Translators is formed to undertake translation from English to Konkani, Marathi, Hindi & Portuguese languages and vice- versa.

3. Steps initiated to implement the Official Language Act :

3.1 Computer Typing Training in Official Language Konkani :

3 training programmes have been conducted till date to impart proper typing training in Official Language Konkani on Computers. These programmes were sponsored by the Directorate of Official Language free of cost for the employees of the State Government Departments & Undertakings. A CD containing Konkani Software tools prepared by CDAC, Pune is distributed to all employees of the Departments who availed the training, which will prove useful while utilizing local languages in public oriented administrative works. Till now, more than 100 employees of 36 Departments/Corporations have availed the said training which includes PWD (North & South), Transport, Education, Art & Culture, Tourism, Planning & Statistics, Municipal Administration, Printing Press, GEDC, Goa Housing Board, etc.

3.2 Installation of Unicode Konkani Software Tools on Government Computers

Government has approved the proposal of the Department to bring all Government computers under Unicode Konkani Software Tools, which will help make official Correspondence in Devanagari. At first instance, the software will be installed in all Department's of Secretariat. Imperative of using Unicode system which makes Konkani typing completely impediment – free. Action on this has already been started.

3.3 Imparting Training to Officers of All India Services posted in Goa in Official Language Konkani :

As announced in Budget Speech 2012 – 2013 the Department has initiated compulsory training programme in Konkani language for all the Officers of All India Services posted in Goa, to enable them to understand issues facing the people and to reduce communication gap between such officers and the people. The officers will be subjected to a comprehensive study tour of the entire State, to acquaint them with the rich history, culture and the geographical features and area specific issues of the State. This will help them to appreciate the ground realities and issues before the administration in order to discharge their administrative responsibilities in a responsive manner. The training course is scheduled from 2nd July to 13 August 2012 and it is being imparted by well knowledgeable persons like Adv. Uday Bhembre, Prof. Bhushan Bhave, Dr. Madhavi Sardesai, etc. in Seminar Hall of Secretariat, Porvorim.

4. Analysis & Recommendations :

For effective implementation of Official Language Act, Government has constituted an Advisory Board consisting of experts in the field of Language & Literature. The Board is headed by Minister Official Language/ Hon 'ble Chief Minister.

The Advisory Board functions as follows :

- a. To review targets achieved vis – a – vis targets fixed in the Annual programme for implementation of the Official Language Act and to consider the ways & means to be adopted for achieving the goal.
- b. To discuss & decide on various incentive schemes, training programmes, etc.
- c. To encounter difficulties in the implementation of the orders relating to the use of Official Language and remedies thereof.
- d. To review follow up action in respect of the orders issued in pursuance of the recommendations made in the report of the Board.

Based on the recommendation of Advisory Board a committee is constituted to prepare various Terminologies, viz: Administrative, Legal, Legislative, Political Science, Local Self Government Terminology. Presently, the work of Administrative Terminology is concluded and will be published shortly. It will be useful in encountering the day to day administrative intricacy.

5. **PLAN SCHEMES :**

During the Twelfth Five Year Plan the Directorate of Official Language has the following plan schemes for implementation of Official Language as well as other regional Indian languages spoken in Goa and included in the 8th schedule of Constitution of India.

A. Grants – in – aid to Goa Konkani Akademi :

The Goa Konkani Akademi was established by the Government of Goa in the year 1984. The aim and object of establishing this Akademi is to promote the Konkani Language and its overall development being the official language of the State of Goa. The compliance with the spirit and letters of its constitution, the Goa Konkani Akademi undertakes number of activities in the areas of Konkani language, literature, education, research, art, culture, music, theatre, folklore, etc. Goa Konkani Akademi being the only official institute established for the development of Konkani language and related activities.

B. Grant – in – aid to Gomantak Marathi Academy :

The Gomantak Marathi Academy is an autonomous, sovereign Institution and was registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860, bearing registration No. 40/GOA 1987, and further being the apex body of Goan Marathi lovers, writers, promoters, etc. have been functioning smoothly for the development of the Marathi language, culture, Art, Literature and Drama presently within the periphery of the state of Goa.

C. Grants – in – aid to Dalgado Konknni Akademi :

Dalgado Konkani Akademi is an Institute registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 in the year 2005. The aim and objective of the Akademi is to promote the study and development of Konkani language in Roman script. It holds and organizes seminars, conference, workshops, exhibitions, lectures, competitions of different types and foster other appropriate means for the study and development of Konkani language, literature and culture in Roman script.

D. Promotion & Development of Official Language

The Directorate of Official Language, as a part of its activity releases financial assistance for promotion and development of Official Language in Konkani & also Marathi on various occasions. The funds for such type of releases are utilized under this scheme. The objective is to popularize the programmes and policies of the State Govt. for development and promotion of official language and other languages prevalent in the state and to give financial support to the eligible organizations/registered institutions to organize events for promoting official language and other language prevalent in the state to organize/conduct various types of events/programmes/exhibitions/festivals/workshops/discussions/talks/seminars/ performances and publications of books including dictionaries etc.

E. Scheme for Publication in Official Language – Konkani & Marathi :

The objective of this scheme is to encourage the writers in the State to develop their talent and to give boost to Official Language i.e. Konkani and Marathi, on the subjects – Goan Social Ethics, Philosophy, Sociology, Social Awareness, Human Development, Media/Mass Communication/Information Technology, Administration, Tourism, etc. Under the scheme a writer shall be eligible for honorarium maximum upto ` 1 lakh. The Evaluation Committee shall scrutinize and decide upon the quantum of the honorarium.

F. Rajbhas Prashikshan Evzonn :

The Goa, Daman & Diu Official Language Act was passed in 1987 and Konkani being the Official Language all the official work is required to be done in Konkani, as in the practice in other States. The Govt. has therefore prepared a syllabus based on the recommendations of a Committee on the lines of Hindi Teaching Scheme of Government of India. Government intends to train all the Government employees in Official Language and the syllabus prepared by the Committee will be utilized to equip the employees with minimum use of Konkani Language, However Group 'D' employees are not eligible for admission to this course. The training course will be conducted in all talukas batchwise.

G. Promoting Sanskrit Language (Plan) :

The scheme has been designed for providing financial support to the institutes, promoting Sanskrit language in the State of Goa. It intends to assist such institutes/NGOs/organizations in Goa which are dedicated for promotion and development of Sanskrit as language, duly registered in Goa for atleast 2 years. The quantum of financial aid under this scheme shall be in the ratio of 75:25. This assistance will help such institutions to create the requisite infrastructure facilities. On receipt of application the Directorate shall scrutinize the applications thoroughly by appointing an Evaluation Committee and submit the report alongwith it's recommendations to the Government. After considering the recommendations of the Department, the Government shall decide the quantum of financial aid.

- H. The Directorate extends one time grants/financial assistance to Gomantak Marathi Academy for construction of Marathi Bhavan which is located at Porvorim. Till date the Academy has received grants of Rs. 1.12 crore for completion of the Bhavan and as announced in the Budget speech 2012-13 additional amount of Rs. 100 lakhs will be released to the Academy for the above said purpose.
- I. As announced in Budget speech 2012-13, the Department has initiated steps to extend grants of Rs. 100 lakhs to Goa Konkani Akademi for construction of new Konkani Bhavan.