

Dear parents,

We have hereto given a brief account of the various court orders related to 'Tamil Learning Act – 2009'. This will give you a clear picture of why your child studying in Class VIII or below this academic year 2022 -23 should study Tamil as second language. This will enable him or her to take up 10<sup>th</sup> board examination in March 2025, which is mandatory.

- Tamil Learning Act, 2006 (Act13 of 2006) came into force with effect from 19<sup>th</sup> June 2006.
- Tamil Language was introduced as a compulsory subject in Standard I in the year 2006-07 and extended to Standards I & II in the academic year 2007-08, and it was extended every year in a phased manner till the academic year 2015-16 for Standard X.
- Hon'ble First Bench of Madras High Court vide order dated 23.08.2007 in W.P,Nos.33953, 7879 and 10661 of 2006, upheld the validity of the Act.
- The Hon'ble Supreme Court in S.L.P. (Civil) No(s).21224/2007 upheld the validity of the Tamil Nadu Tamil Learning Act, 2006 on 14.07.2008.
- In June 2014 the government issued guidelines on the public exam to be held on March 2016. Many schools who have not taught Tamil as 2<sup>nd</sup> language said that there are only two more years to prepare their students for a Tamil public exam, so they went to the court. Nearly 8,300 students also approached the court for exemption, since they have not been taught Tamil.
- Finally, after much deliberation, the Madras High Court passed an interim order dated 25.01.2016 in W.P. No.1498 of 2016, granting exemption to all the students, from writing Tamil Language exam in 10<sup>th</sup> Standard exams to be held in March 2016.
- Few students who got transferred from other States in Class IX also sought exemption. With the understanding of the Court, a fresh government order was issued on 02.01.2017. It states that a person who has not studied Tamil for a period of three academic years will be provided exemption. It means, that only students who joined in class IX from another State will be exempted.

- Many aided minority schools complained that they could not teach Tamil because the Government have not sanctioned Tamil teachers post. All the cases were referred to a larger bench.
- Finally, the Government agreed in the Court to start teaching Tamil in as a subject in standards I to X in all schools (namely Schools under CBSE, ICSE etc.) in a phased manner commencing from the academic year 2015- 2016 for Standard I, from the academic year 2016-2017 for standard I and II and shall be extended up to standard X in academic year 2024 – 2025.
- The larger bench comprising of the Honourable Mr.Justice S.Manikumar and the Honourable Mr.Justice Abdul Qudhose and the Honourable Mr. Justice Subramonium Prasad accepted the proposal given by the government and passed an order on 23.09.2019.

Accordingly all students who are studying in Class VIII this academic year 2022 - 23 must write 10<sup>th</sup> Board exam in March 2025. No more exemption will be granted to any school or student, as all legal remedies have been exhausted. Kindly do not take risk by not allowing your child to learn Tamil as 2<sup>nd</sup> language. Our school will provide all assistance to facilitate your child to learn Tamil according to his level.

We will also write to CBSE to have two different level of assessment for Class X board exam; one the basic level and the other standard level. If they fail to do so, then we will seek remedy in the Court through our Association to direct CBSE to provide two level assessments.

Please don't get carried away by schools promising to provide Hindi or any other language as 2<sup>nd</sup> language for class VIII and below during this academic year. Your child will be the sufferer as all legal remedies have been exhausted.

With best wishes,

A.T.B.Bose  
(Secretary)